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**Puffing sportsmen**  
Scoring and smoking

Dr Thomas Stuttaford page 20  
Bryant's Eye page 50

**32 PAGES OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES**



Ruth Rendell's full-blooded thriller  
New films page 37

Clinton imposes sanctions on India

**Nuclear test is prepared by Pakistan**

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI, CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PAKISTAN is expected to set off a nuclear explosion within the next few days in retaliation for India's double set of nuclear tests this week. And in a further escalation of the arms race on the sub-continent, India is preparing to arm nuclear missiles in spite of world condemnation of its test programme and the threat of international sanctions.

to plead with him not to follow India on "this dangerous path", even though he understood the "unhappiness" of the Pakistani people. He reinforced the message by sending a top-level delegation to Islamabad. Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State, and General Anthony Zinni, US commander in the Middle East and southwest Asia, are expected to meet Pakistani authorities tomorrow.

test programme, who has said that he is prepared to carry out test explosions at very short notice. The Government is also reported to have chosen a test site in the distant province of Baluchistan. Maleeha Lodhi, a former ambassador to Washington, said: "We have no other choice but to go for our own nuclear test, as the credibility of Pakistan deterrents have been called into question by the Indian behaviour." Another former Pakistani diplomat said the public pressure on the Government to respond immediately was "irresistible".

Neither country appeared, however, to be paying heed to world opinion or to pleas from President Clinton, who yesterday signed an order for economic sanctions against India. He said the country had made a "terrible mistake" in conducting five underground test explosions in the Rajasthan Desert — three on Monday and two more yesterday. India was a "perfectly wonderful country — it does not have to demonstrate national greatness this way".

Most political observers believe that a decision to detonate a nuclear bomb is imminent: Mr Sharif had a long meeting yesterday with the head of Pakistan's nuclear test programme, who has said that he is prepared to carry out test explosions at very short notice. The Government is also reported to have chosen a test site in the distant province of Baluchistan.

Other countries will discuss similar measures at the G8 conference which opens in London on page 2, col 5



"I thought I'd do an Indian tonight"



Emma Noble and James Major in Monte Carlo for music awards last week

**Tobacco firm infiltrated MPs' committee to win support**

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

COVERT supporters of the tobacco company Philip Morris made contributions to *The Lancet* and advised a Commons select committee as part of a concerted effort to blunt concerns about passive smoking, it was claimed last night. The infiltration exercise was part of an operation code-named "Project Whitecoat", according to a 1990 memorandum from an American law firm acting for the company. The claims are made in papers that have been released by Philip Morris as part of a Minnesota lawsuit and published on the Internet by a US congressional committee chairman. The papers also claim that the company established its own "learned society" — Indoor Air International — based in Geneva, which published papers suggesting that factors other than tobacco smoke might be behind lung disease. The firm claims in the memo under the heading "Lancet" that "one of our consultants is an editor of this very influential British medical journal and is continuing to publish numerous reviews, editorials and commitments on environmental tobacco smoke".

**Pension reforms rejected by Blair**

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Prime Minister has delayed government plans for pension reform till the autumn after deciding that a Green Paper, due out next month, was insufficiently radical. John Denham, the Pensions Minister, presented his long-awaited Green Paper on the "stakeholder" pension to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown on Monday. But Mr Blair argued that the proposals, out for consultation for several months, did not go far enough, and said ministers should be more ambitious. Mr Brown was also said to be concerned about the costs.

**Major's son James to wed TV game show hostess**

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND ANNIE FLURY

JAMES MAJOR, the former Prime Minister's son, has announced his engagement to a game show hostess after a three-month relationship. The whirlwind romance between Mr Major, 23, and Emma Noble, 26, is announced on the Court and Social page of *The Times* today. Since they met at a party at the Café Royal in London their relationship has been acted out in the full glare of the media spotlight. The couple met when Ms Noble was a £300-a-show hostess on Bruce Forsyth's *The Price is Right*, a job she has now given up to pursue other interests. She admits she was upset when it was suggested that their relationship was a publicity stunt. "It was just so odd for the papers to say that. I was very upset and so was James. He's been so supportive."

**Doctor cleared of misconduct over dead twins**

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN eminent hospital professor was cleared yesterday of serious misconduct amid claims that he was persecuted by a woman who lost her unborn twins during pioneering laser surgery. Kyprianos Nicolaides, one of the world's leading experts of foetal surgery, had been accused by Jennifer Sabin of joking about her underwear and her northern roots as he carried out surgery on her dying unborn twins at the Harris Birthright Centre, King's College Hospital, in south London. The General Medical Council rejected the claim that when Mrs Sabin asked for a painkiller the professor said: "These are the women from Newcastle. They cook their men their dinner, they go out and get drunk, then they come back and beat the women and they have sex with them — and she wants a painkiller."

**Doctor cleared of misconduct over dead twins**

BY RICHARD DUCE

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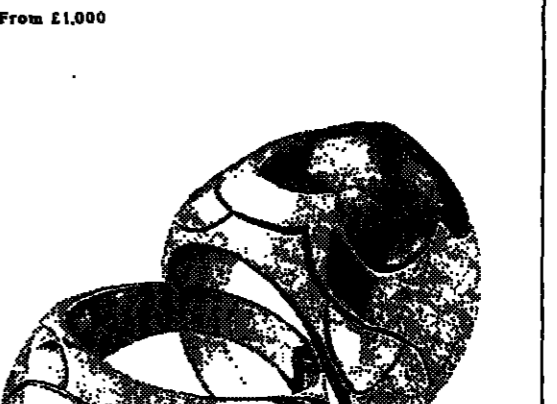
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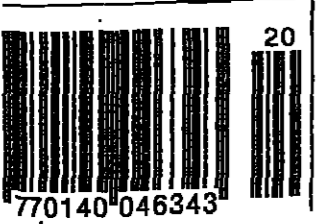
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# The answer is in rigging the question in the first place

Betty Boothroyd must be furious. The control freaks who keep the Labour back benches in line are now fixing not only what Labour MPs ask Tony Blair at Prime Minister's questions, but who tries ask a question in the first place.

The background needs a word of explanation. MPs anxious to get in on PM's Questions can do one of two things: they can apply in writing, weeks in advance. Hundreds do, a lottery takes place, and the first 25 are listed on the Order Paper. The

whips read the Order Paper. Every government MP on the list is contacted beforehand and offered the "on-message" questions the Prime Minister would like to answer. If the MP insists on asking his own, they ask him what it will be — and twist his arm to keep him "on message". Mr Blair is then advised of likely questions so he can prepare his apparently impromptu answers. The whole thing is about as spontaneous as *Blind Date*.

Of the many who apply, only a small minority make

that lucky 25. But they can turn up on the day and take their chances — joined by new petitioners with a burning question about the events of the hour. These are the stand-by passengers, without a ticket on the Order Paper — but with a fair chance of catching Miss Boothroyd's eye because she always calls a sprinkling of those not on the Order Paper.

In short, the ticket-holding MPs are already having their questions "rigged". Now government whips seem to be rigging the stand-by queue,



too. Why do I allege this? Simple. Two, five or fifteen years ago, a glance at the Government backbenches at PM's Questions would have shown up to a third of all the MPs there, clamouring for the Speaker's attention — jumping up after every intervention, hoping to make the next. Each side seats rather more than 200 MPs and it used to

be unusual for fewer than 30 or 40 (and common for 60 or 70) to be trying to get a question in to the Prime Minister of the day.

Yesterday there were ten. Another ten did not need to jump up because their Questions were already listed. The apparent conclusion — that out of a gathering of some 200 British MPs, offered an opportunity for maximum exposure at the highest-profile occasion in the parliamentary calendar, 20 had something to say and the other 180 only wanted to listen — defies credulity.

There is another explanation. Somebody is gagging them.

The reason is obvious. Why should the whips spend their time trying to buttonhole every single member of the Parliamentary Labour Party, on the off-chance that some of them may try to get in at PMQs? Simpler to select a

small group of backbenchers — those with a track-record of helpfulness — and tell them that, in exchange for asking the right questions, they may join the select group allowed to try to catch the Speaker's eye — standing, thereby, a good chance of success.

From my seat I was unable to ascertain whether the Tories are now doing this too. If so, it is another small but signal retreat for the independent backbencher in the face of the oncoming party machine.

Still, backbench power is

not quite dead. Yesterday Gerald Howarth (C, Alder-Shot), a Boy David of a backbencher with only his single-question sling, brought down our Goliath of a Prime Minister where the heavily armed and armoured four-question William Hague had failed.

Why, asked Howarth, was Mr Blair boasting that the right result had been achieved in Sierra Leone, when he denied that HMG had played any part in achieving it? Mr Blair flannelled pitifully.

## Labour weighs in to save pounds

THE Government is pushing Brussels to grant a stay of execution for pounds and ounces. Under EU law, shops will no longer be able to use imperial weights for loose fruit and vegetables from December 31 1999.

Ministers are lobbying for shops to be allowed to include imperial weights alongside metric weights on labels for up to ten years after the change, although the goods will have to be sold by metric weight. Packaged food is already sold by the metric system.

Businesses were first urged by the Government to make the switch in May 1965. From 2000, the only items which will still be sold in imperial measurements will be pints of milk, beer and cider.

The move to extend the transition period was backed by the Government's Better Regulation Task Force, which warned that time was running out if the December 1999 deadline was to be met. In its first report to ministers on consumer issues, published yesterday, the task force called for urgent action to clarify what was going to happen.

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, said the Government was "very sympathetic" to the task force's calls. "We have been discussing this at commission level and they are aware of our concerns."

## EU vote spells end to tobacco ads in four years

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A EUROPE-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship was approved yesterday by the European parliament, opening the way to enactment of the law before the end of the British presidency of the EU in July.

The parliament endorsed the draft already passed by EU ministers, guaranteeing the passage of a law that has been subject to nine years of wrangling and a fierce rearguard campaign by German MEPs, the tobacco industry, publishers and Formula One motor racing.

However, the law is likely to face a challenge in the European Court of Justice from Germany, on the ground that it breaches the EU's Treaty of Rome. "The fight goes on — see you in court," said John Carlisle, director of the British Tobacco Manufacturers' Association.

Opponents of the law took heart from the support of 211 MEPs against a 314 majority for an amendment rejecting the whole draft. The parliament's legal committee ruled last month that the law had no legal basis.

The EU Commission and council of ministers said they had no doubts about the legality of the measure, which was based on the EU's single



Professor Nicolaides: "I am relieved that my name has been cleared"

## Doctor

Continued from page 1

her friend to the hospital. The hearing was told that Mrs Sabin went to see the professor after a scan at her local hospital showed her babies had "twin to twin transfusion syndrome", a usually fatal condition in which one foetus gets too much blood and the other too little.

She described to the hearing how the professor made her watch a television screen that showed his attempts to use a laser to treat her rare condition. After the hearing, Professor Nicolaides said: "I am immensely relieved that my name has been cleared. I am deeply saddened that I was not able to save the babies of Mrs Sabin."

Mrs Sabin said: "They have tried to paint me as an idiot. What happened was horrendous. It is not easy coming down from Newcastle and having to compete against all these well spoken people. This should never have been allowed to happen."

Since he arrived in Britain from Cyprus in 1978, Professor Nicolaides has never had a holiday. His fear of flying means he has never gone abroad to attend a conference, even though he is an acknowledged world expert in his field of gynaecology.

Colleagues say that his approach is professional but relaxed. He likes his patients to look on him as a friend on first-name terms. Unlike his more reserved English colleagues, he will embrace a patient warmly like a close family friend or member of the family.

One colleague said that the laser surgery technique which Professor Nicolaides had pioneered relied totally on close co-operation with the patient, who had to be perfectly still.

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## Make life painful for ministers, says Livingstone

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

KEN LIVINGSTONE yesterday urged students to make life "as painful as possible" for the Government as he joined a Westminster rally to protest against the introduction of tuition fees.

Mr Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, said that lobbying Parliament was not enough. "I'm in favour of direct action... If you start a more aggressive strategy, they take notice."

He recommended "something that makes them look like idiots and everybody gets a good laugh out of it. They hate that more than anything else."

Warning the students that tuition fees were the thin end of the wedge, he said: "Unless you make their life bloody painful, they'll come back for more and more and more."

Mr Livingstone, a potential candidate for the job of London mayor, also offered the students tips on approaching MPs. If their target was "some ghastly old Tory", they should not admit to voting Labour. "You've got to say, 'as a lifelong Conservative voter, I expect you to make a stand'."

Mr Livingstone was scathing of Labour's decision to adopt the Conservatives' spending plans for their first two years in office which, he claimed, would cost lives because of funding shortages in the NHS. He said Labour



Livingstone said he favoured direct action

## Blair to reassure Unionists about IRA disarmament

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR is considering new moves to reassure Unionists that the release of republican prisoners will be linked to IRA disarmament.

The Prime Minister, alarmed by the impact on the Unionist vote in next week's referendum of the triumphant appearance of the Balcombe Street gang at Sunday's Sinn Fein conference, will today promise that hardcore IRA terrorists will not be released and that Sinn Fein will not sit in Northern Ireland's new executive until it proves its commitment to peaceful methods.

Mr Blair is understood to be exploring ways of strengthening the legislation that puts the accord into effect by making clear that Sinn Fein will not enjoy the advantages without IRA disarmament. But he knows he must do so without reopening the painstakingly forged accord, which is deliberately ambivalent on the decommissioning issue.

Unionists expect Mr Blair to spell out his plans in a critical speech in Belfast tonight during his second visit to Northern Ireland in eight days.

Even before Sunday's Sinn Fein conference, private polls showed three fifths of Unionists were either undecided or actively opposed to the accord, and yesterday the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's

## Pakistan prepares for nuclear test

Continued from page 1

Birmingham tomorrow, and America will seek a common stand. But it is already plain that Britain, France and Russia will demur: France because of its own nuclear testing record, Russia because it opposes sanctions against any country on any issue, and Britain because of its historical links with India.

Tony Blair nevertheless accused India of threatening world security with its second set of underground nuclear tests. They were "deeply disturbing" and would "inevitably diminish our chances of producing the safe world we all want to live in."

But India remained defiant, and the sanctions announced yesterday brought an almost derisory reaction. There is hardly a word of dissent anywhere over the five nuclear blasts and Hindu youths toured Bombay in a campaign to collect 100,000 signatures written in blood in support of the tests. Signatories pricked their fingers with injection needles, symbolically stating their readiness to spill blood for the nation.

Pramod Mahajan, political adviser to the Prime Minister Aul Behari Vajpayee, said: "All defence-related programmes, including development of long-range ballistic missiles, will continue. We are not afraid of anybody and are ready to face the consequences."

The Government called the sanctions unfortunate and launched a diplomatic drive to persuade donor countries to understand India's security concerns. It also held out the prospect of signing the nuclear test ban treaty, having apparently decided that it has no need to explode any more nuclear devices.

Yesterday's tests would be the last because computer simulations could now be used to develop the nuclear programme, officials said. That was the same message it gave after Monday's blasts, which means that either officials lied or, more probably, scientists sought permission for two more tests because something went wrong with the first batch.

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 14 1998

# Fred V. accus... four te

By Helen Johnson

THE DEATH of a young woman who was accused of murdering her husband's brother has been the subject of a new book by Helen Johnson.

William Hill, who was accused of murdering his brother-in-law, was found guilty of the crime in 1997. The book, 'The Hill Case', details the events leading up to the trial and the subsequent conviction.

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# Fred West cousin accused of raping four teenage girls

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE trial of a cousin of the serial killer Frederick West, who is charged with raping and sexually assaulting a series of teenage girls, can be reported, a judge ruled yesterday.

William John Hill, a 45-year-old farm-worker, is accused of attacking four girls aged between 12 and 17, at his former home in the village of Much Marcle, Herefordshire, where West was born and spent his childhood. Other assaults are alleged to have happened in Hill's three-wheeled Robin Reliant.

The trial follows police inquiries into the activities of Frederick and Rosemary West. Hundreds of young people passed through the Wests' home at Cromwell Street, Gloucester, over a 20-year period and nine bodies were discovered buried there.

Hill, a married man now of Putley, Herefordshire, denies four charges of rape and four of indecent assault at Birmingham Crown Court. They are specimen charges and the victims claim there were far more sex attacks by Hill, who is known as John.

The court heard the alleged crimes occurred during a seven-year period from 1976 when Hill was 24. He was arrested and interviewed in June 1996, and questioned again in January 1997.

Reporting restrictions were lifted yesterday after two days of the trial by the judge, Mr Justice Peter Crawford, QC. DC Stephen Harris told the



Hill said to have raped girls in car and shed

dence, said Hill told her not to say anything because no one would believe her. "It happened every day during my stay there, always during the morning. I just wished it would be over. I just closed my eyes."

A second woman, now married with two children, alleged that Hill raped her when she was 16. She said she did not get on with Hill who used to slap her and throw her around. On one occasion, she described running away from the house and Hill came after her in his car, knocking her into a ditch.

She said Hill once drove her to a pub in his Reliant before locking the doors and raping her. The woman said she tried to tell a relative what had happened to her, but could not bring herself to do so.

Both women rejected a suggestion by Joanne Greenberg QC, for the defence, that their minds were confused about what had happened.

In his opening address, Mr Gosling told the jury of seven women and five men that another victim had been a regular visitor to Hill's house as a girl. He said on-going abuse culminated in rape when she was aged between 14 and 16.

Hill's third alleged victim, now in her thirties, told the court she was attacked when she was a virgin aged between 13 and 15.

She told the court that as Hill was leaving the bedroom he turned to her, put his finger to his lips, and said "Sssh". The trial continues.

# Detective wins £300,000 in sex claim case

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A DETECTIVE constable nicknamed "massive cleavage" by CID colleagues was yesterday awarded an estimated £300,000 after reaching an agreement for compensation with her former force.

Dee Mazurkiewicz, 42, whose nickname was devised from a pun on her surname, became the country's first woman police officer to win a sexual discrimination award from an industrial tribunal. A two-day hearing to decide compensation was yesterday halted after Miss Mazurkiewicz and Thames Valley Police announced that an agreement had been reached.

Miss Mazurkiewicz later described how four years spent fighting the case had left her devastated. "The mother of one added: 'It is a great relief for me that this is finally over. I wish that this had not been necessary and that it could have been resolved a long time ago.'"

Miss Mazurkiewicz, who has been on sick leave since March 1995, added: "I'm finding it very difficult to cope with the fact that it is over for me and I need the time to take it all in."

She said the outcome offered encouragement to other woman police officers who may have suffered sexual harassment in silence, saying: "It shows today that it

can come to an end. I'm feeling very emotional. I've lost my job but I've won my case and I feel vindicated, but I've lost an awful lot as well.

Miss Mazurkiewicz, who had already served 14 years and had another 14 years to go, had been earning up to £21,000 a year. She will now retire with an ill-health pension on Sunday. The tribunal in Reading ruled unanimously last November that the officer, based in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, had been sexually harassed and then victimised after she complained.

At the previous hearing the tribunal was told that male colleagues had said she had won confessions from criminals by "getting her boobs out". She had also been accused of wearing no knickers and performing oral sex on prisoners in exchange for confessions.

Barbara Welch of the Police Federation, which had funded the action, said it was the first time an award for sexual discrimination had been made by a tribunal. Other cases had either been settled outside tribunals or decisions had been appealed against by police forces.

A police spokesman said a lump sum of £150,000 had been agreed. With pension provision, the figure is expected to be nearer £300,000.



Dee Mazurkiewicz: she said the four years fighting the case had devastated her

# Hunt for father and son after woman is killed

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

POLICE were last night searching for a man and his 18-month-old son after the boy's mother was found strangled.

The body of 29-year-old Georgina McCarthy was found by a neighbour in her house in Penzance on Tuesday evening. There was no sign of her son, Adam Russell, who lived with her. Police yesterday issued an alert at ports and airports for Adam's father, Paul Russell, 33, Miss McCarthy's ex-husband.

Police disclosed last night that a panic alarm had recently been installed in Miss McCarthy's home after she received a series of threats.

Detective Superintendent Christopher Boardland, who is leading an inquiry team of 30 officers, said: "As well as the murder inquiry we are particularly concerned for the whereabouts of Georgina McCarthy's son."

"We think there is a possibility that Adam is with his natural father. Our main concern is for the welfare of young Adam and obviously we need information as to his and Mr Russell's whereabouts. We have nothing to suggest at this time that Adam Russell has come to any harm."

"We do not believe he has wandered off, so we are particularly keen to find him."

Police were called to Miss McCarthy's end-of-terrace house after her body had been found in the lounge by a neighbour. Mr Boardland said: "A post-mortem examination revealed she had died from strangulation. This was a brutal attack."

Police are trying to establish

whether any of Adam's clothes were taken from the house. Mr Russell's last known address was in Truro but police said yesterday that he has family connections in south Devon and Wales.

Miss McCarthy, an Israeli, had lived in Penzance for a year since moving from Torquay. All her family are believed to be in Israel.

Residents of the cul-de-sac where Miss McCarthy and Adam lived in a house rented from the Penwith Housing Association were shocked last night. Nigel Major, chairman of the residents' committee, said: "We have had our problems in the past with drugs and disorder, but things were starting to get a lot better."

Another resident, who did not want to be named, said: "She was friendly enough to stop and have a chat to, pleasant, quiet and didn't hassle anybody."

Police are standing guard outside Mr Russell's address in Truro and his mother's home in Torquay.



Adam Russell: missing from mother's house

# George Best agrees to transfer from flat

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

GEORGE BEST agreed to move out of his home yesterday after a row over mortgage arrears in which he faced the prospect of eviction.

After a three-day hearing at Central London County Court the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland winger announced that he had reached an out-of-court settlement with Clydesdale Bank, which had sought repossession of the flat in Chelsea. The bank had claimed the mortgage had not been paid for three years and that it was owed £70,000 in arrears and loans.

Best, 51, insisted the payments had not been made because of a dispute with his former agent, Bill McMurdo, over ownership of his company, George Best Management Ltd, to which the flat belonged. The court heard the company paid him £80 a week and he lived there rent-free.

Mr Best and his wife appeared outside the court and said: "We are delighted it's all over with. Now we will be able to move into a better place."

Mr Best's barrister had told the court that Mr McMurdo was refusing to cover the mortgage in order to have him evicted.

But in a joint statement issued after the case, Mr McMurdo agreed to help Mr Best buy a new home and Mr Best withdrew "all previous allegations and claims made by him to interest in the company flat and its shares".

Mr McMurdo said later: "It was never my intention to have George Best evicted. Having tried to resolve the situation, I am pleased George has the opportunity to find a new home."

# Children at village party struck by E coli poisoning

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A CHILDREN'S tea party was believed last night to have been the source of an outbreak of E. coli food poisoning that left six youngsters seriously ill.

The outbreak comes a week after the party at a village near Purbeck, Dorset. The same E. coli 0157 bacterium killed 20 elderly people in Scotland last year.

The most seriously ill child, a five-year-old boy, is being treated at Southampton General Hospital, where he is said to be making progress. Four of the children are in a stable condition at Poole General

Hospital and the sixth, also aged five, is being cared for at home.

The children, aged between two and nine, had been invited to Renscombe Farm at Worth Matravers on the May Bank Holiday Monday. Ross Prior, whose six-year-old daughter, Amanda, was taken ill, said that his wife, Deborah, had kept a 24-hour vigil beside the girl's hospital bed.

Mr Prior, 32, said: "She began to suffer stomach upsets but seemed to recover after a couple of days. When the symptoms came back, we took her to the doctor, but we

did not believe it was anything more serious than a stomach bug. The doctor immediately rang the hospital to have Amanda admitted. "While she was ill at home, we made her drink a lot of water, which is apparently absolutely necessary and may have helped her pull through. She is not out of the woods yet, although she is showing all the signs of recovery."

Dorset Health Authority, which is trying to establish the source of the outbreak, said: "Investigations suggest that there is no risk to the wider community."

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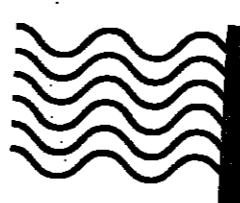


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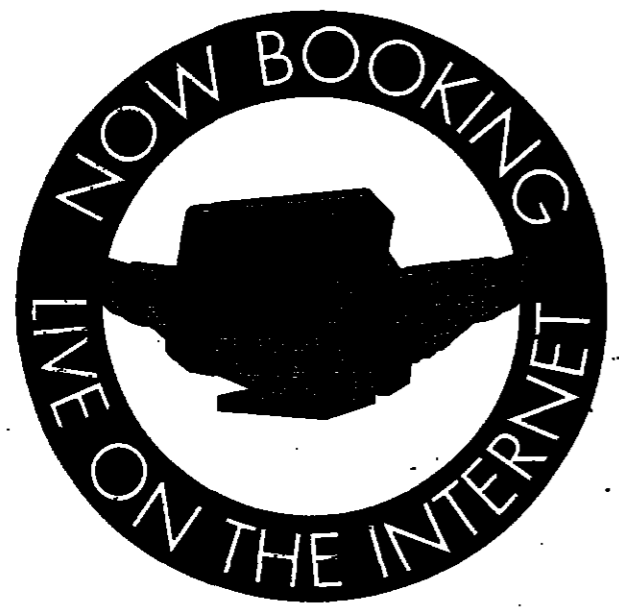
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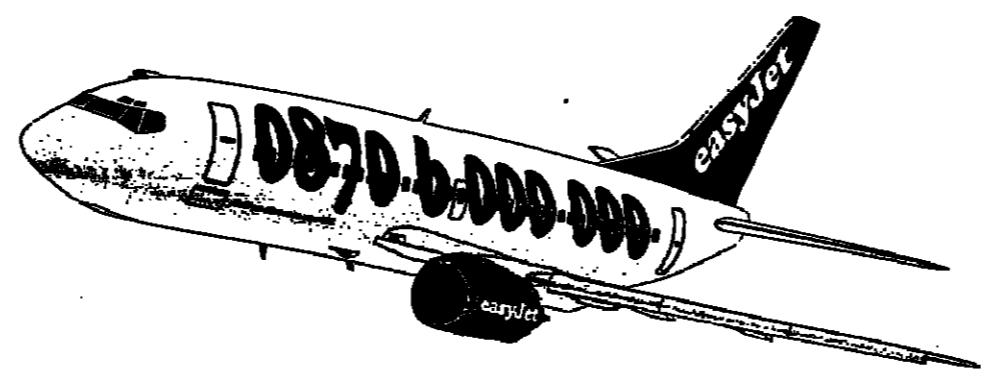
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# University plan means police will get first degrees

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE computer giant IBM and the police are going into partnership in a scheme to create the first national police university, offering the bobby on the beat the chance to gain a PhD.

The university would become the national training centre for all 128,000 police officers, also offering specialist courses including counter-terrorism, dog handling, surveillance techniques and race relations.

The university would teach languages, technology, psychology and technology and train officers for retirement to new jobs. Some study could be done at a residential campus but officers would also be able to use a computer network linked to their stations and homes.

The scheme would offer huge savings for the Home Office and police forces by closing training schools round

the country and replacing them with a single centre. A blueprint, codenamed Project Forward (sic), suggests the university would also offer training for the private security industry and could be used for the certification of private companies.

The plan links IBM with the Police Federation, which represents 98 per cent of officers. A company called Creative Consulting will be the third partner.

The project will be officially unveiled next week at the federation's annual conference. IBM would provide sponsorship and the federation would give expertise: its officials are closely involved in police training.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has already been briefed on the project and officials are studying the planned deal. He would have to agree to allow the federation

to join the scheme. Sites being mooted include a police school at Stansted in Essex and the Civil Service College in Sunningdale, Surrey.

Up to £20 million would be needed to set up the first stage but the federation and IBM believe that there is a huge potential to sell the university round the world and could be worth millions of pounds for the partners. The British training system is highly regarded and many countries could be keen to use it. The university would also answer criticisms that there is not enough training for British officers.

Details of the plan are being circulated to the federation's members. The body has traditionally acted as a trade union for the bobby on the beat and the partnership could produce heated debate. The plan raises questions on the future of over 600 officers involved in training.



Ian Frith with the bus he bought with his £1,500 savings. It is kept in a nearby garage where he is restoring it

## Driving passion of schoolboy collector

By Paul Wilkinson

IAN FRITH loves buses so much he bought one with £1,500 saved from his pocket money.

But the vehicle the 16-year-old has just splashed out all his savings to buy is not just any old bus. It is the very vehicle he and his father used to ride regularly between his home in Sheffield and the city centre.

Sitting behind the wheel of the 33-seat vehicle yesterday, he said: "My schoolpals think I'm daft but I don't mind. I don't have any other hobbies. I use all my spare time to go bus spotting and will use it to restore this bus. I just love it. The sound of the engine when it starts up is unique. It's like music to my ears."

The teenager, who next month takes ten GCSEs, used his contacts in the bus-spotting world to track the 1986 Optare Midi down to a scrapyard in Kent. He said: "It's a dream come true."

His mother June, 42, and father Stuart, 46, are happy for their son. Mrs Frith said: "We're very proud of him."

## Wrong woman's body was buried

By A Correspondent

POLICE exhumed a grave in a village churchyard at dawn yesterday to prove that an undertaker had buried the wrong body.

David Turner, of Thetford, Norfolk, is now facing possible prosecution. The funeral director should have buried Sheila Gent, 58, next to the grave of her husband's parents in Christ Church Cemetery at Fulmodeston, near Fakenham, Norfolk.

But her body was confused with that of Edith Kemp, 97, who should have been cremated the next day in January last year at the West Suffolk Crematorium in Bury St Edmunds. Detectives confirmed last night that it appeared Mrs Kemp had been buried in the grave while Mrs Gent was cremated.

Both women, who lived in Thetford, died within days of each other and were laid out at Mr Turner's funeral parlour. Police began inquiries earlier this year after a former employee of Mr Turner's funeral company alleged that there had been a mix-up. She made the claim in court after being convicted of stealing from the company.

Mr Turner, 54, who has been a funeral director for 18 years and carries out up to 300 funerals a year, insisted that he had no knowledge of bodies being mixed up. It had been noticed that the nameplate on the coffin at Mrs Gent's funeral was wrong but his staff had assured him that there had not been a mistake with the bodies.

Ben Dures, the Gents' family solicitor, said Mr Gent and his children were devastated by the mistake and they were likely to take legal action against Mr Turner.

## Lawrence officer admits mistake

By Lin Jenkins

THE senior officer in charge of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry yesterday admitted that he made a critical mistake in not arresting up to five suspects at the earliest opportunity.

Detective Superintendent Ian Crampton, who was in charge for the first three days following the fatal stabbing in April 1993, said that with hindsight, he believed he should have acted on several tip-offs that named youths.

Giving evidence about a catalogue of omissions, errors and poor communication by police, he conceded that his strategy to delay making arrests while he sought extra evidence had been wrong. Five suspects were arrested two weeks after the killing, once police felt they had more evidence to go on. No one was ever convicted.

"The strategy that I adopted was unsuccessful because it did not work and I had gone for one option, when hindsight would tell me quite clearly the other option might have worked," he said.

Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel to the judicial inquiry into the death of the 18-year-old student, said it was "the single most negative decision made that weekend" yet it had not been recorded anywhere.

The officer conceded that when the suspects were arrested, it was on the evidence available that first weekend. Mr Crampton, now retired, also admitted that he had not recorded his other major decision, to mount surveillance on the homes of some suspects on the Monday after the Thursday night murder at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London.

The inquiry continues.

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# Freed spy says he is not security risk

Even Oleg Gordievsky, who exposed Michael Bettaney, approves his release, reports Michael Evans

MICHAEL BETTANEY, the man who had unsuccessfully given the Soviet Union some of M15's most closely guarded secrets and spent 14 years in prison as a result, insisted yesterday that he was no longer a security risk. The former middle-ranking M15 officer, who was freed last week, said the "professional knowledge" he still had about his time in the Security Service was "out-of-date and useless".

Mr Bettaney's release on parole from Swaleside prison in Kent, which was sanctioned by the Home Secretary, came after he had served nearly two thirds of his 23-year sentence. The former M15 officer, 48, whose approaches in 1983, Arkady Gouk, the KGB chief in London, were spurned because the Russians suspected he was a plant, said: "I would not be out on parole if the relevant departments had not been consulted."

Mr Straw who had to give his personal approval because of the nature of Mr Bettaney's crime, is known to have consulted M15 before supporting the recommendation of the Parole Board. M15 is under-

stood to have made no objection to Mr Bettaney's release.

However, despite his statement yesterday that the information in his head was out of date, it was acknowledged yesterday that even 14 years after his conviction, Mr Bettaney would still have insider knowledge, including names of some M15 employees. He remained subject to the Official Secrets Act, as he was in 1983 when he was arrested by Special Branch, and any further breaches would lead to a second prosecution. Whitehall sources said:

Mr Bettaney is now living with his girlfriend, Marion Johnstone, with whom he developed a relationship after she wrote to him in jail.

Yesterday, standing outside their house at Ware in Hertfordshire, Mr Bettaney, looking decidedly thinner than his plump appearance at the Old Bailey when he was found guilty of ten charges under the Official Secrets Act, said: "I want to live quietly. I am just going to chill out today and get used to freedom."

Mr Bettaney's treachery was exposed by Oleg Gordiev-



Johnstone: fiancée living with Bettaney

sky, the former senior KGB officer who was an M16 agent, first in Denmark and then in London. He warned M16 that Mr Bettaney was showing secret documents through the letter box at Gouk's home.

Yesterday Mr Gordievsky said that Mr Bettaney's release no longer posed a security risk. He said that Bettaney had details about British embassies in eastern European countries and had been involved in Northern Ireland security, but that the information was outdated.

He added: "I think the decision to release Bettaney was correct and inevitable. The crime was really not as bad as some of the other cases

and 14 years is a long time to serve."

At his trial, Bettaney's sole explanation for deciding to betray his country was an ideological one. He did not claim to be the victim of blackmail. He appealed against the conviction on the grounds that the information he had attempted to pass on was of no real value but the appeal was rejected.

It emerged that he had become disillusioned with his work and had turned to Marxism. He told friends that he believed the Soviet system was superior to that of the West.

During most of his 14-year jail term, Mr Bettaney was kept in segregation units, first at Coldingley in Surrey, and then at Swaleside.

At his new home, Mr Bettaney said his time in prison had been "in conditions that were strange and in isolation". But he had managed to survive with the support of friends and his fiancée.

Mr Bettaney said he wanted to rebuild his life and find a job. "As a contribution to life then I have, like everyone else, to find work," he said.

Sir Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Rochford and Southend East, said that he would be taking the matter up with Mr Straw because of fears that Mr Bettaney would still know the names of British agents working abroad as well as other sensitive material.



Michael Bettaney at home yesterday. He was released on parole last week

# Driver in fatal crash had ten court bans

By Paul Wilkinson

A MAN who has been banned from driving more than ten times was jailed yesterday for 7½ years for killing a cyclist by had tried to overtake by mounting a kerb.

Peter McLean, whose left foot was in plaster at the time from a previous crash during a police chase, had spent an afternoon drinking spirits and taking drugs.

When a taxi in front moved into the middle of the road to avoid the bicycle, McLean tried to overtake on the inside and struck John Bartley, the rider. The 62-year-old died from a fractured skull on December 28 last year.

McLean, 28, a heroin addict, sped away from the scene in Sunderland pursued by Ronald Bradford, the taxi driver. Newcastle Crown Court was told. The taxi passenger took down some of McLean's registration number and he was arrested 12 hours later.

Yesterday McLean was also banned for ten years after he admitted causing death by dangerous driving and failing to stop or report the accident. He also admitted driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

McLean's record includes 11 convictions for driving while disqualified, three for reckless driving, two for dangerous driving and one for aggravated vehicle taking.

# Harrow teacher is accused of robbing Peter to pay Paul

By Joanna Bale

A HARROW master accused of stealing £35,000 in school-trip money was "robbing Peter to pay Paul", a court was told yesterday.

Peter Jackson, 36, withdrew hundreds of pounds in cash on a daily basis from various accounts used to process cheques from parents. During a 16-month period he withdrew £37,428 in cash as well as transferring hundreds of pounds to pay for items such as his children's school fees and mortgage, it was alleged.

Michael Logsdon, for the prosecution, asked the former geography master at Wood Green Crown Court, North London: "What did you spend the money on?" Mr Jackson replied: "I can't remember."

Mr Jackson, who was dismissed after his arrest, maintains that he was running school expeditions abroad as his own legitimate business to supplement his teacher's salary of £28,000. He claims other

masters at the school did the same.

Asked why he had taken money from an account for a trip to Tanzania to pay a tour operator, Sportullis, for a trip to Florida, Mr Logsdon put to him: "You were running it as Peter Jackson's crooked enterprise, weren't you? You didn't have the money to pay Sportullis, so you robbed Peter to pay Paul."

Mr Jackson replied: "I viewed it as my money and I was providing a service to the parents."

The court was told that, by the time Mr Jackson departed for his trip to Tanzania, there was only £159 left in an account that should have held £36,000 in parents' money.

Mr Jackson denies 12 counts of theft, one count of forgery and one count of using a false instrument with intent.

The trial continues.

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# Merton top as Balliol slides in results table

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BALLIOL, one of the three most ancient Oxford colleges, has fallen from second to seventeenth in the annual table of the university's examination results. It had an unusually high number of low-grade degrees in last summer's finals.

Merton College retained pole position after 88 per cent of its students gained either first or upper second class degrees.

The Norrington Table, which compares the results of the 30 undergraduate colleges, also shows male students continuing to record a higher number of first-class degrees than women.

For the fifth year running the table has been compiled by a resourceful student without official endorsement, after Oxford academics voted to thwart its annual publication by removing college names from results listings.

Balliol, founded between 1263 and 1268, has rarely been outside the top ten since the table was invented by Sir Arthur Norrington, a former President of Trinity College, in a letter to *The Times* in 1963.

Andrew Graham, the acting Master of Balliol, admitted he was disappointed but pointed out that more than one in five students gained first-class degrees. "Over the long run of years Balliol has done very well and we are not too



Balliol: results rarely outside the top ten

disturbed by fluctuations from year to year." He added that he was pleased with the college's eighth position in the table for women students.

Critics of the table say it distorts small differences between colleges. The average score of 8.35 for Merton compared with 7.00 for Harris Manchester at the foot of the table. Balliol scored 7.75.

Overall, the table shows 15 per cent of women finalists last year received first-class degrees compared with 21 per cent of men. Almost 30 per cent of students gained firsts at Merton, St John's and University colleges. The last remaining all-women college, St Hilda's, came 24th in the main table and 23rd in the results for women.

Robert Gilday, the senior tutor at Merton, said the college owed its continued success to careful selection of

students and individual attention from staff. "We have been working very hard to take more people from the state school system and this is a good result for that policy."

The attention devoted to students was exemplified by his own department's annual revision trip to a house in Cornwall, where tutors and the dozen history students spent a week together before finals examinations, he said.

The tables were compiled by finding the average score per student after allocating ten points to each first-class degree, eight for a 2:1, six for a 2:2, four for a third and two for a pass grade. The five passes shown for Balliol include one agrerat, an honours degree awarded, to a student who missed examinations because of illness.

The top five colleges for men's results were Jesus (8.32), St John's (8.3), Merton (8.28), University (8.24) and Keble (8.18). The bottom five were Christ Church (7.53), Mansfield (7.48), Worcester (7.46), St Peter's (7.28) and Harris Manchester (7.05).

The top five colleges for women's results were Merton (8.44), Wadham (8.37), St John's (8.17), University (8.10) and Christ Church (8.06). The bottom five were St Peter's (7.58), St Hugh's (7.5), St Catherine's (7.45), Mansfield (7.44), Harris Manchester (6.89).

Good University Guide, page 44

OXFORD UNIVERSITY COLLEGES						
College	1	Degree Class	2	3	Pass	Total Av per student
1 (1) Merton	22	44	9	0	0	75 8.35
2 (4) St John's	33	61	16	0	1	111 8.25
3 (2) University	29	52	16	2	0	99 8.18
4 (10) Jesus	24	56	14	1	0	95 8.17
5 (11) Wadham	25	70	13	2	1	111 8.09
6 (18) Keble	27	84	14	4	0	129 8.08
7 (5) Corpus Christi	10	47	8	0	0	65 8.06
8 (14) Trinity	13	53	6	1	1	74 8.05
9 (12) New	23	71	18	1	0	113 8.05
10 (20) Oriet	18	49	12	1	1	81 8.03
11 (15) Magdalen	20	66	12	2	1	101 8.02
12 (24) St Edmund Hall	27	76	15	4	1	123 8.02
13 (9) Quern's	16	49	16	1	0	82 7.95
14 (22) Lucy Margaret Hall	20	65	20	2	0	107 7.93
15 (9) Exeter	20	58	18	2	1	99 7.90
16 (12) Lincoln	7	55	13	0	0	75 7.84
17 (8) Hertford	23	51	29	2	0	105 7.81
18 (16) Brasenose	21	51	21	5	0	98 7.80
19 (2) Balliol	22	53	15	2	5	97 7.75
20 (7) Christ Church	20	76	28	4	0	128 7.75
21 (23) St Anne's	22	80	34	2	1	139 7.73
22 (27) St Hugh's	18	65	28	5	0	114 7.68
23 (21) Pembroke	10	57	28	2	0	91 7.65
24 (28) St Hilda's	9	78	24	1	1	111 7.64
25 (29) Somerville	11	59	21	3	1	95 7.60
26 (17) St Catherine's	20	73	29	7	2	131 7.56
27 (26) Worcester	8	65	22	3	1	99 7.54
28 (24) Mansfield	3	35	18	0	0	56 7.46
29 (19) St Peter's	12	45	32	4	0	98 7.40
30 (30) Harris Manchester	4	9	16	1	1	28 7.00

Last year's position in brackets.

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LLOYDS	£3,000	16.9%	£212.37	£5,151.72
ABBEY NATIONAL	£3,000	16.3%	£208.21	£5,092.54

APR is correct as 27th April 1998. Source: Moneyfacts.

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## Third-generation loch postman keeps flag flying

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE dedication of a family that has delivered mail to the islands on Loch Lomond for three generations was recognised yesterday.

A new Royal Mail pennant was presented to the current postman, Sandy Macfarlane, to fly from the small wooden boat he uses for "one of the most beautiful postal rounds in the country". The first flag was presented to his grandfather, Alexander Macfarlane, on his maiden journey round the loch's 38 islands in 1948.

"This has been a family tradition and one I'm delighted to carry on," said Sandy Macfarlane, 32, who operates from a boatyard at the village of Balmaha. He still uses his grandfather's boat, the *Lady Jean*, which copes well with the unpredictable waters: the loch can turn from mill-pond calm to choppy waves in a matter of minutes on the ten-mile round trip.

The scenery, says Mr Macfarlane, more than compensates for the bitter winter cold. "The route must be one of the most beautiful postal rounds in the country." His dog Kip accompanies him throughout the year regardless of the temperature.

Little has changed in the family's 50 years of service. Mr Macfarlane said, except the number of visitors to the loch and the mailbag that is used. "Everything is just like my grandfather and father did."

However, in summer Mr Macfarlane now moors the *Lady Jean* and uses one of the family's two bigger boats, the *Marion* and the *Margaret*, so that tourists can join him to admire the views on his round.

Sandy Macfarlane and dog Kip with their new pennant; right, his father and grandfather taking mail across the frozen loch in 1963

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# The deadly dilemma of doctors over Child B

**Ian Murray reports on a study which criticises medical bickering and a father's protective instincts**

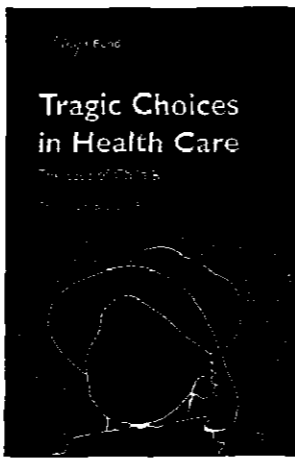
THE tragedy of Jaymee Bowen — the leukaemia girl whose treatment sparked a High Court battle — was made worse by rivalry between NHS doctors and private specialists and her father's attempts to shield her from her likely death, according to a study published today.

Although the case of Child B has come to epitomise the dilemma of rationing care to match available funds, the study shows that clinical considerations, not money, led to Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority's decision not to give Jaymee further treatment after two failed attempts to cure her. The study,

published by the King's Fund, the independent health research group, and based on interviews with all concerned, says that profound disagreement between doctors also played its part.

When Jaymee relapsed after treatment for a second time in January 1995, the three paediatricians in charge of the case agreed that further intensive chemotherapy followed by another bone marrow transplant was likely to do more harm than good. All the medical data they could find showed that all the patients who had been treated in this way had died.

One of the paediatricians,



The book says money was not the main issue

Simon Meller from the cancer specialty Royal Marsden Hospital in London, told the book's authors: "I don't intend to have any more experience of second transplants within 12 months of the first because all

four or five I've seen have been a disaster and afterwards the parents wished they hadn't agreed to their child having a second transplant."

However John Goldman, Professor of leukaemia at Hammersmith Hospital in London, backed by American experts, advised further chemotherapy with the aim of giving Jaymee a second bone marrow transplant.

"The stance taken by the adult specialists derived from their view that the outcome sought was not simply a cure but involved intervention to extend Jaymee's life and improve its quality," the book says.

Jaymee died aged 11 in May 1996, 14 months after being given the treatment, paid for by an anonymous donor. In the book, Professor Goldman says: "If you think that just prolonging people's life for six months is futile, then for practical purposes I am out of business. We don't cure that many people with proper cancer. We do prolong their life."

He felt that the case revolved around competing medical ideologies with money being irrelevant.

The paediatricians said the competing ideologies come to the fore when clinicians reach the top and feel they possess sufficient expertise to make their own judgments. "It's very classical behaviour of famous specialists," one said. "They usually have a very large private practice and whatever rules we decide are appropriate within the NHS, they won't apply to private practice."

The book says that while the



Jaymee Bowen, whose father went to the High Court to try to force a health authority

**HOW FATHER FOUGHT THE EXPERT VIEW**

“He assumed Jaymee wanted treatment even though it had only a small chance of a cure, an assumption a father is not entitled to make”

Bowen criticised for shielding Jaymee

“I know I was a pain in the arse to the doctors looking after Jaymee but I was all a little girl had”

## Less salt 'could save 40,000 lives'

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 40,000 lives could be saved in Britain every year if the average amount of salt people eat was reduced by a third, medical experts claimed yesterday.

Launching a campaign to make food manufacturers reduce levels of salt added to food, Graham MacGregor, from the blood pressure unit of St George's Hospital Medical School in London, said there was now overwhelming evidence linking salt intake to strokes and heart attacks. "For commercial reasons, the

food industry is very reluctant to reduce the high salt content of processed food," he told a conference in London. "It is the cheapest flavour enhancer and it increases thirst. It is time that policy makers and the food industry address this issue to reduce these huge levels."

Professor MacGregor said that the excess salt in the British diet increased blood pressure of the entire population. "Ten to 15 per cent of people in Britain have high blood pressure and 30-40 per cent have blood pressure in the upper range of normal. It is absolutely vital that we get these levels down," he said.

Around 80 per cent of the salt in diets originates from processed foods. The conference was told that if the average salt intake were reduced by a third the number of strokes would be cut by 22 per cent and heart attacks by 16 per cent.

The average daily British diet contains 9 grams of salt while the Government's advisers recommended in 1994 that the maximum should be 5 grams for women and 7 grams for men.

The recommendation has not been adopted by the Health Department but Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, has ordered a review of the issue.

## Impotence drug gives men t

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

VIAGRA, the impotence drug that is selling out in America, has been criticised by ophthalmologists worried about its effects on vision. Men taking it to improve their erections see a blue-tinted world, a peculiar side-effect that worried some eye specialists.

It is caused because the enzyme phosphodiesterase is involved in both the process of

erection and in colour vision. Viagra works by blocking the action of the enzyme, which produces the distortion of vision.

Pfizer, the maker of the drug, says that it has conducted rigorous tests on vision at doses well above those recommended, without finding any clinically significant long or short-term effects.

But some American ophthalmologists are worried because people with genetic

abnormalities that affect the production of the enzyme suffer irreversible retina damage over time. The American College of Ophthalmologists wants Pfizer to conduct more tests.

The data that enabled Pfizer to obtain a licence for Viagra in America is published today in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It shows that the drug quadrupled the success of men in having intercourse. In one

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# Minister to aid victims of Troubles

### Martin Fletcher on Mowlam's swift response to a report detailing the suffering in Northern Ireland

THE Government yesterday appointed a "minister for victims" in response to a harrowing report that revealed how the tens of thousands of people bereaved or injured during the Troubles had been forgotten and neglected.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, accepted the findings of the report by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the former head of Northern Ireland's Civil Service, and nominated Adam Ingram, a minister of state, to "watch it, drive it, push it and make sure it happens". She called the £5 million that Tony Blair promised the victims last week "a mere down payment".

Bertie Ahern, the Irish

Taoiseach, also promised a "significant financial contribution".

At an emotional press conference in Belfast that included anguished contributions from the bereaved, Sir Kenneth said he had "encountered grief and human suffering on an enormous scale" in the six months he spent researching the report and concluded that the State had failed the victims.

"Too many people are carrying into the future, alongside their physical and emotional injuries or loss, a corroding sense of grievance," he said. "Too many victims who came to public meetings to meet me expressed the view that in 15 or

### ULSTER'S BLOODY TOLL

Since the Troubles began, 3,600 people have been killed in Northern Ireland, 91 per cent of them men and 74 per cent under 40.

Of those killed, 53 per cent were civilians with no connection to the security forces or paramilitary organisations. Nearly 29 per cent were serving members of the security forces, half from outside Northern Ireland: 12.5 per cent were republican paramilitaries and 3 per cent loyalist paramilitaries.

Some 87 per cent of the dead were killed by paramilitaries (59 per cent by republicans, 28 per cent by loyalists) and 11 per cent by the security forces.

Between 40,000 and 50,000 people have been injured. (Source: *Cost of the Troubles Study*, Incore)

20 or 25 years they had enjoyed no adequate opportunity to voice their feelings to anyone representing, or close to, authority.

"The report, *We Will Remember Them*, also called on the IRA and other paramilitary organisations to identify the graves of those they had

while working undercover in South Armagh in 1977. There are scores more whose families dare not speak out, or cling to the illusion that their sons or husbands were exiled. Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, told reporters that the families of the "disappeared" had clearly suffered an injustice and "it is my intention to try to rectify that".

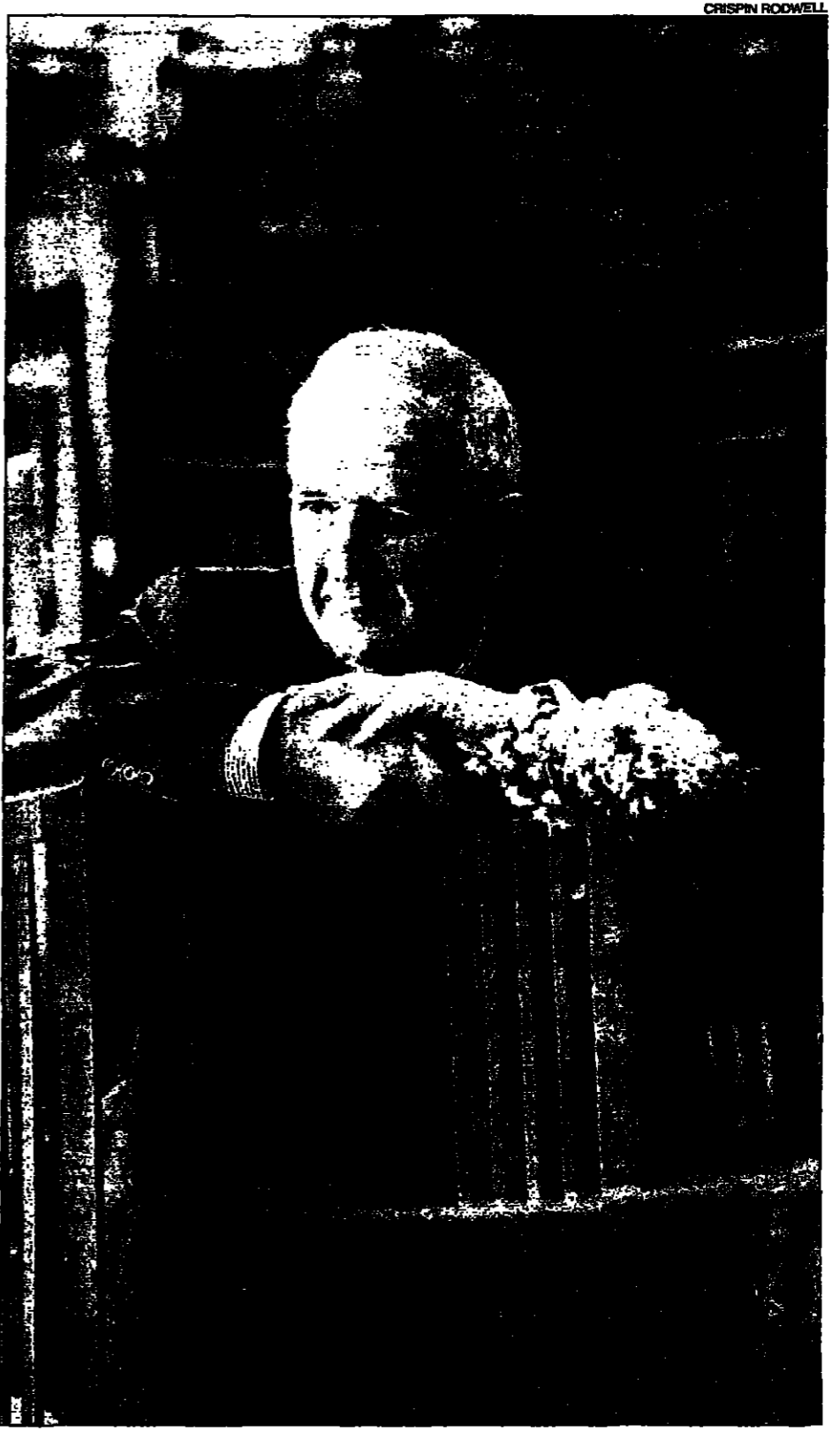
Sir Kenneth's original remit was to devise a suitable way of commemorating the victims of violence. The report rules out a memorial bearing the names of the 3,600 dead — Protestant and Catholic soldier, civilian and paramilitary — as too divisive and liable to desecration. It instead suggests a modern building in tranquil gardens in the centre of the Province, which would be adorned with works of art and inscribed with poetry that the Troubles have inspired.

It proposes an annual "Memorial and Reconciliation Day" that would transcend the sectarianism associated with most public holidays in Northern Ireland, and a memorial appeal to help the children of those killed. It also floats the idea of a South African-style Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a means of healing wounds, but says that would work only if Northern Ireland's political leaders agreed on the need for it.

But Sir Kenneth, who himself survived an IRA attack in 1988, said priority had to be given to helping the victims, particularly "the many 'little' people caught up in violence, often in relatively isolated incidents too soon forgotten outside the family".

He called for improved compensation arrangements, more short-term support and long-term counselling, and better medical and psychiatric provisions. Dr Mowlam promised a speedy response.

The report praised the work of the many voluntary organisations that helped victims of violence, but suggested an umbrella organisation to lobby for their interests. "It would be quite unacceptable to provide services for the benefit of those convicted of serious offences that are not matched in dealing with the victims of such crimes," Sir Kenneth said.



Sir Kenneth yesterday. He suggested gorse as an emblem for the victims

## Bereaved father pleads for justice



Gavin McShane, left, whose murder four years ago still reduces his father Matt to tears, journalists heard



BY MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MATT McSHANE welcomed yesterday's report into the treatment of victims of the Troubles, but it did not give him the thing he wants above all else. Openly weeping, he stood up at the press conference in Belfast and demanded to know when his son's killers would be caught.

Gavin, aged 17, was shot dead by loyalists four years ago as he played a video game in a taxi office in Armagh city. A wounded friend died later. The pair were killed simply for being Roman Catholics. Mr McShane said: "Every-

thing that's been mentioned here today has helped the victims. We need the help. As you can see, I am still very emotional."

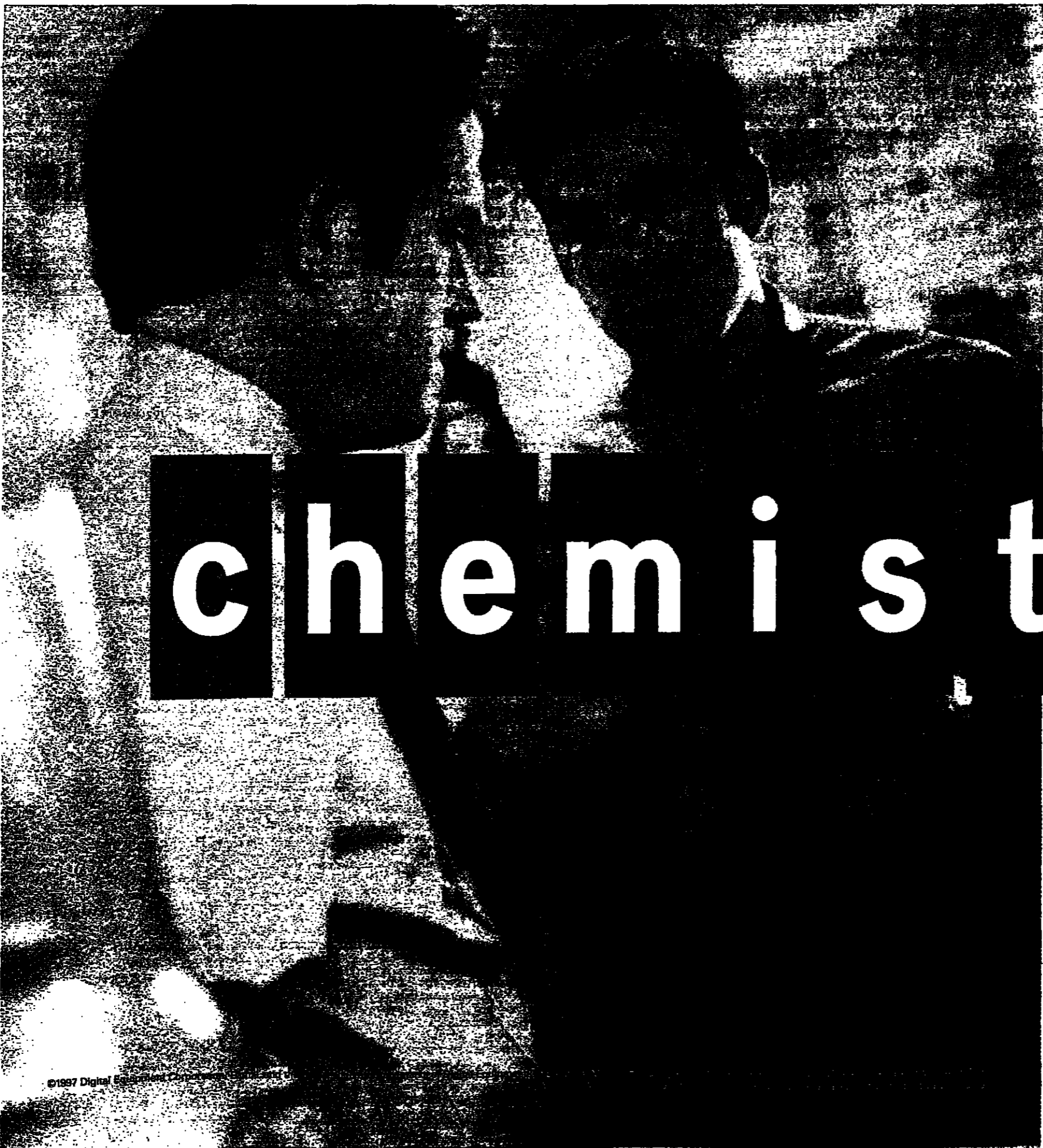
But he fears that it has become politically expedient to pursue those responsible for atrocities now there is a peace accord. "In the three months after my son was murdered I was told they were still investigating, but after that I have never seen a policeman," he protested.

"They're not going to put prisoners in for murder now they're letting them out in two years' time."

Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's report was welcomed by most victims' organisations, but for several of the bereaved at

the launch it did not go far enough. Patricia Byrne, whose mother died when the IRA bombed a village 25 years ago, called the memorial proposal a "fudge". She demanded some sort of truth commission, arguing that only when the bereaved knew who had done what and why could there be real healing.

Mina Ward, of the Shankill Stress Centre, thanked Sir Kenneth because at last "someone took on board their pain and hurt". But she was offended at Northern Ireland's politicians now rushing on to television to express sympathy for the bereaved: "In 30 years they've not given one damn about the victims."



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# World leaders urged to tackle hi-tech criminals

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A 24-HOUR international hotline to help police forces across the world in the fight against high-tech crime is expected to be approved by world leaders this weekend.

One of Britain's leading police chiefs is to brief the Group of Eight summit in Birmingham on how international crime syndicates are taking advantage of the growth of international trade and computer systems to steal billions of pounds.

Among the measures expected to be adopted are 24-hour telephone contact points that crime agencies anywhere can use when they suspect serious offences are being committed by electronic means.

The growth of organised computer crime across the world is causing so much alarm in governments that the issue has been made one of the main items for discussion at the annual international gathering to be hosted by Tony Blair. His spokesman said yesterday that the downside of the globalisation of the world economy was the "enormous threat of transnational crime".

Roy Penfold, director-general of the recently formed National Crime Squad, is to brief President Clinton, President Yeltsin, Mr Blair and the

leaders from Italy, Japan, Canada, France and Germany in ways in which traffic in drugs, firearms and human beings have become massively profitable businesses, and how the big syndicates are finding ways of exploiting new technology to launder their money through computer systems.

Papers to be presented to the summit will show that some £300 billion moves around the world electronically every day and that 96 per cent of all bank transactions are electronic. Criminals are increasingly exploiting the technology to steal money and information, to commit fraud and to deal in illegal material such as child pornography.

Leaders are expected to urge international companies to take more preventive measures. But Mr Blair's spokesman said that organised criminals did not respect national borders and that new methods had to be found of stopping them.

Mr Blair will greet fellow leaders in Birmingham tomorrow morning. Some 315 official delegates, 900 support staff and 2,500 journalists will attend an event that the Prime Minister is hoping to keep as informal as possible.

Unusually finance ministers will not attend; they met in London last weekend to prepare the ground for the heads of government; and in keeping with the planned "fireside chat" spirit of the summit Mr Blair will take the leaders off to Weston Park, a secluded retreat outside the city, for most of Saturday.

The agenda, however, still appears crowded. There will be a lengthy discussion of the Asian financial crisis and new international rules to prevent it recurring. British officials say a new "financial architecture" will be needed to improve supervision. With the Jubilee 2,000 coalition of more than 70 aid agencies expected to hold demonstrations in Birmingham, there will be discussion of fresh measures to relieve the debt burden of the poorest countries.

Other items certain to be discussed are the Middle East peace process, the Kosovo crisis and nuclear testing in India. Mr Clinton will hold separate discussions with the Prime Minister on the Northern Ireland peace process and on Sunday he will travel with Mr Blair to Chequers for the third of a series of brainstorming discussions between ministers and advisers from the American and British Governments.



The dining room at Weston Park, home of the Earls of Bradford, where G8 leaders will meet on Saturday

## Eccentric earl provides entertainment

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE stately home of an eccentric aristocrat has been chosen by Tony Blair for a "fireside chat" with world leaders at the G8 summit on Saturday.

The Prime Minister wants to banish formality, recreating the cosy mood of the inaugural 1975 meeting of the Group of Five nations — the United Kingdom, United States, France, Germany and Japan — who have since been joined by Italy, Canada and Russia. In every

bedroom of Weston Park in Shropshire is a copy of *Stately Secrets* by the present Earl of Bradford, whose anecdotes about his family home should make lively reading.

President Clinton might chuckle at the exploits of William Dunfee, the house steward who in 1824 infuriated the 1st Countess of Bradford by using the broom cupboard for his many amorous pursuits. Hillary Clinton might envy the power flaunted by Kitty, the poultry woman, who was able to dismiss one of

her plucking girls "to keep her out of danger" after an attack by Dunfee.

Boris Yeltsin should read the tale of Wolf, the 5th earl's butler, who secretly syphoned off half the white wine in the cellar and replaced it with cheap cider. Mr Yeltsin will be relieved that the present earl, a renowned chef was once proprietor of a caviar bar in Knightsbridge. Still, everyone is advised to check the food carefully. The earl's works include *The Eccentric Cookbook*, which has a recipe for curried kangaroo tails.

## Sheepish welcome to Planet Britain

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOLLY the sheep, the world's first cloned mammal, plays the starring role in a special CD-Rom that will promote Britain at this weekend's G8 summit in Birmingham.

Presidents and Prime Ministers who find a spare moment to browse through the *Planet Britain* CD will be greeted by scores of Dollys revolving through a kaleidoscope.

If they are taken by the sight of Dolly, the distinguished viewers can click on to the CD's Science and Technology section where a picture of a contented-looking Dolly passes slowly in front of a series of mathematical calculations to denote the country's place in the world of science. As she passes by, a man's voice intones: "Dolly, the world's first cloned mammal, became a superstar."

Robin Cook will unveil the CD at the G8 summit to promote the image of Britain as a young, modern country.

A woman's voice starts the CD with the message: "Planet Britain is young. Planet Britain is a kaleidoscope of people. Planet Britain is new ideas and new ways for the millennium. We welcome you to our world within."

Viewers are then invited to click on to nine separate areas covering aspects of British life, such as media, fashion, sport, science and technology and music.

## Dorrell censured by MPs

BY POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

STEPHEN DORRELL, the Shadow Employment and Education Secretary, wrongly failed to declare an interest when he spoke in a Commons debate on trade union recognition, a committee of MPs ruled yesterday.

The Committee on Standards and Privileges agreed with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, that Mr Dorrell should have made clear at the beginning of his speech that he was a director of Faithful Group. The company, which makes clothes, does not recognise unions.

During the debate on April 6, Mr Dorrell refused to declare an interest, although challenged to do so by Denis MacShane, the Labour MP.

Mr Dorrell said that he accepted the committee's ruling and offered his apologies to the Commons.

Mr MacShane claimed the ruling meant that all Conservative frontbenchers should declare their interests before initiating debates against the Government. He said that William Hague, the Tory leader, should remove Mr Dorrell from his position.

## Call to vet donors in line for award

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ANYONE who donates more than £5,000 to a political party should be vetted by senior privy councillors before they can receive an honour from the Queen, the honours scrutiny committee said yesterday.

The committee chaired by Lord Pym, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, said a public register of all party donors should in future be passed to them.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the Liberal Democrat peer on the committee, said that such a move with transparency across the board would be a "healthier situation".

The committee appeared in public for the first time yesterday to explain their work to the Neill party funding inquiry. Lord Pym — also accompanied by Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde for Labour — said that meticulous checks were made to ensure that honours could not be "bought" by political donors.

At present the committee only examines names put forward for senior honours — knightships and peerages — solely to the trustees to check their acceptability. Blind trusts were presented as shrouded in the mysteries of time. Successive leaders of the opposition, both Tory and Labour, have certainly found that the amount of funds available from the taxpayer has been wholly inadequate to run a proper operation. So they have turned to sympathetic businessmen. But the Blair blind trust, and similar ones for other Labour leaders, were on a very much larger scale. That was for two reasons: first, in 1994-95 Mr Blair and his advisers wanted a source of funds directly under their control rather than coming through the Labour Party's then cumbersome machinery, and second, many potential donors backed Mr Blair personally rather than Labour.

The Neill committee has been assiduous and balanced in its five weeks of public hearings, focusing on pertinent issues, but yesterday it was too genteel, failing to ask about the size of the blind trusts, the number of big donors, how many received

given cash to a party. Lord Pym defended the present system but accepted that it might be time to review it. He warned, however, that it would be a huge task for his committee to extend its remit.

He also played down the significance of political donations and said it was just one factor when the committee considered the suitability of people for honours.

Lord Pym made clear to the committee that he regarded a political donation as an advantage for someone's nomination. "If someone gives their money to a party, that is a bonus rather than a mimus, because they are supporting what they believe in with their own money."

He said that no one had ever been put forward for an honour solely on the basis of a party donation, but he admitted that the committee had in the past turned people down. "It might be the wrong time, or some other reason why we think it should not go ahead."

Speaking for the first time yesterday, Lady Dean denied Tory claims that her place on the committee conflicted with her role as a trustee of the blind trust which funded Tony Blair's Opposition office.

## A master of charm disarms inquisitors

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

A stone has been lifted on one of the hidden places of British politics, and out has come not a sinister spider but a smooth chameleon.

The Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life, yesterday heard from Lord Levy, Labour's master fundraiser. He is a 1990s version of Lord MacAlpine of West Green, Lady Thatcher's moneybags. You can see why Lord Levy has been so successful. He was charming and reasonable, and ingratiating to the point of obsequiousness. He disarmed the committee, which failed to ask key questions about the blind trusts which funded the offices of Tony Blair and others before the election.

Lord Levy portrayed himself as a servant of the public interest devoted to upholding high ethical standards in a murky and uncertain world. He had a distinguished record as a charity fundraiser before he started helping Labour in 1993. He argued that, in the absence of legislation, Labour had taken the lead in developing good practices in refusing to accept money from abroad, in insisting that money should not be accepted from those who want something in return, and in declaring the identity of donors of above £5,000 (of which there had 130 in the past year).

His most interesting role has, however, been as the main fundraiser for the blind trust for Mr Blair's office. Their names were known solely to the trustees to check their acceptability. Blind trusts were presented as shrouded in the mysteries of time. Successive leaders of the opposition, both Tory and Labour, have certainly found that the amount of funds available from the taxpayer has been wholly inadequate to run a proper operation. So they have turned to sympathetic businessmen. But the Blair blind trust, and similar ones for other Labour leaders, were on a very much larger scale. That was for two reasons: first, in 1994-95 Mr Blair and his advisers wanted a source of funds directly under their control rather than coming through the Labour Party's then cumbersome machinery, and second, many potential donors backed Mr Blair personally rather than Labour.

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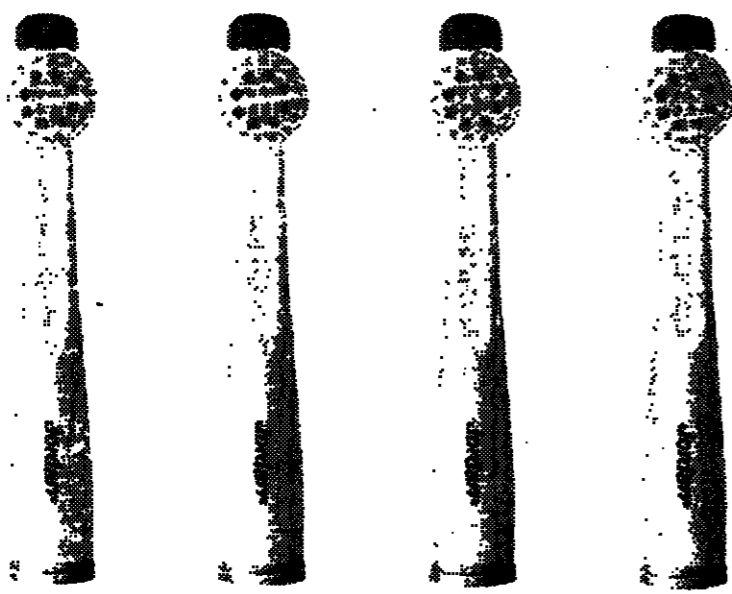
honours and how the money was spent? For all Lord Levy's insistence about Chinese walls, no one asked whether Mr Blair had personally met any of the big donors.

In a sense this is history, since, as Lord Levy argued, we are now moving towards a new regulatory framework of full transparency in which blind trusts should no longer exist. That, of course, opens questions about how opposition offices should be funded. Lord Levy argued that the lessons of the Beraie Ecclestone affair had already been learnt and had been reflected in Labour's proposals for full disclosure within three months of a donation. "Had there been effective and proper ground rules for all party fundraising, the Ecclestone matter would have been handled very differently, because I don't think there was any question of anything other than someone making a gift, and no judgment would have been made because of that gift". There would have been no need for alarm bells in Downing Street, he suggested. Perhaps. But the committee still needs to look further at the idea of having an ethics commissioner to show that ministers always separate government from party and funding matters.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Wak curb

Editors urged to use to avoid inciting violence in France, reports

NEWSPAPERS should be urged to curb their reporting of violence in France, editors were told yesterday. The British Press Convention in London urged editors to be more responsible in their reporting of the violence in France, particularly in the context of the G8 summit.

## GERMANY: NATIONAL

GERMANY'S national newspaper, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, has been urged to curb its reporting of violence in France. The British Press Convention in London urged editors to be more responsible in their reporting of the violence in France, particularly in the context of the G8 summit.

## Probation



The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* this and Belg

## 22 HO

STILL THE FAST



# Wakeham tells papers to curb World Cup jingoism

### Editors urged to use common sense to avoid inciting violence by fans in France, reports Carol Midgley

NEWSPAPER editors were warned by Lord Wakeham yesterday not to incite violence or xenophobia in their World Cup coverage.

The chairman of the Press Complaints Commission appealed to the editors' "common sense" in an effort to avoid the jingoistic tabloid headlines that appeared during the Euro 96 tournament.

"We want to have robust reporting of the World Cup and we don't mind people being partisan, of course not we want British teams to win," he said. "But I don't want any newspapers inadvertently, or in any other way, inciting fans to violence."

However, the commission

did not uphold a recent complaint about a *Daily Star* editorial headlined "Frogs need a good kicking" that vilified the French over their allocation of World Cup tickets to English fans. Matters of taste do not fall within the regulator's code of conduct and its discrimination clause relates only to individuals, not entire nations.

Instead, Lord Wakeham decided to fire a warning shot before the event begins next month. "We thought the *Daily Star* article was a misguided comment or a thought that they might be funny."

In 1996 the commission said certain articles about the German football team were "offensive and in bad taste"



The *Daily Star* revives old hostilities in 1996

because they used analogies from the war. The editors had "seriously misjudged the public mood", it said.

The worst offender was generally considered to be *The Mirror's* headline "Achtung Surrender - For you Fritz, ze Euro 96 Championship is over" carried on the day of England's semi-final clash with Germany.

Yesterday Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, said he had learnt a "salutary lesson" from the controversy over his Euro 96 coverage. "That was old-style tabloid humour," he said. "We have all probably realised that the appetite for that kind of thing has gone... we have to reflect the way the readers change."

Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*, echoed the sentiment asserting there would be no words like "Kraut" or "Frog" used. "Nobody from the newspaper world wants to see any violence in France," he said.

But the French had deserved criticism over the ticket allocation. "In many ways the French, in the way they've handled the ticket allocation, deserve a good kicking," he said. But he added: "We're not going to go out and say 'We're going to invade France', or encourage our fans to behave in a hooligan-type way."

Lord Wakeham said that editors had a responsibility "of paramount importance" not to encourage supporters to behave unlawfully. Their reports should not "foster any form of xenophobia that could contribute directly to such incitement".

Paul Gascoigne has rejected reports that he has been smoking up to 20 cigarettes a day. "The England player said on Virgin Radio: 'For the past seven years I've had the odd *lag* now and again when I'm relaxed - which is never.'"

Body and Mind, page 20

## GERMANY: NATIONAL CARICATURES AVOIDED

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S tabloid newspapers are expected to be on their best behaviour during the World Cup. "We try to avoid the ethnic stereotyping of the British press," a senior journalist at the *Cologne Express* said yesterday.

*Bild*, which sells more than four million copies a day, takes a similar line. It tends to react, rather than provoke, rhetorical assaults on rival national football teams. When the *Mirror* planned to send a tank down the Autobahn during the European championship, the German tabloids responded with hurt bewilderment rather than reply in kind. "What has

happened to British fair play?" *Bild* asked. The bureaucratic reaction was more telling. The German Defence Ministry explained that an invading *Mirror*-sponsored tank must comply with the Import of Armaments Act and its owners would have to fill in a dozen forms; the country did not buckle at the knees.

All the German tabloids scrupulously avoid racial caricatures but they do seem to have a belief that Germany will reach the final. If the German team stumbles on the way, the currently gentle coverage will probably gain a rougher edge.

## FRANCE: LAUGHING OFF THE STEREOTYPES

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRANCE'S draconian press laws have ensured that it would be a brave editor who, in the run-up to the World Cup, risked publishing the type of jingoistic headline used by some British newspapers. Under Article 24 of the penal code of 29 July, 1881, governing the liberty of the press, the editor of any publication which "provokes discrimination or hatred or incites violence towards a person or a group of people because of their ethnic origin, nation, race or religion" is liable to a Fr300,000 (£30,849) fine and a year in prison.

Jean-Claude Nardonnat, the Editor

of *France-Soir*, said: "We know that as far as the Anglo-Saxons are concerned we will always remain the beret-wearing Frenchman, a baguette under one arm, gorging himself on snails or frogs' legs and we just accept this with a certain sense of humour."

He believes that the reason the French press do not go as far as their British counterparts in criticising other countries boils down to a question, of culture. "Of course the British tabloids are xenophobic. We're not overly concerned about that because we've used to it. What really worries us is the possibility of hooliganism."



# Probation officers ordered to tell Straw about books by killers



BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT to stop murderers, rapists and other violent criminals profiting from their crimes after release is being made by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

Probation officers have been ordered to tell the Home Office of any plans by life-sentence prisoners released on licence to write a book or to co-operate with any publishing venture about their offences. The

order was prompted by the controversy over Mary Bell's involvement in Gitta Sereny's book *Cries Unheard* but follows a steady flow of books and personal appearances by former criminals. Ministers were embarrassed that the Home Office and Official Solicitor had known about Sereny's book for two years but had not informed them.

Last month, Ronnie Knight, the former East End gangster, was banned from leaving an open jail to sign copies at a West End

bookshop of his latest book, in which he admits that he was involved in a murder for which he was acquitted.

The Home Office order goes further than targeting lifers released on licence and includes tens of thousands of criminals freed each year. The demand for information is intended to give early warning to ministers and officials who could be embarrassed by the activities of freed prisoners.

A circular to all 54 chief probation

officers and to probation committees in England and Wales says: "In the light of the Mary Bell affair, it would be helpful to have information about any other comparable cases in which probation services believe that people they are supervising on life licence are planning to write or co-operate with the writing of books about their offences, or are otherwise engaged in activities that might be regarded as profiting from their offences."

It says notice would be helpful

"where the case could attract significant media attention. ... This request does not presuppose that all such activities are necessarily wrong; the primary purpose is to enable ministers to have a fuller picture of what is now happening on the ground and to help them to consider the policy options."

The probation service is supervising 725 life-sentence prisoners freed on licence and about 12,000 other released offenders.

Harry Fletcher, the assistant gen-

eral secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Many ex-offenders legitimately use their experiences of prison life, whether through writing or in lectures. It is difficult to argue that they should not be paid, especially if the work does not glorify crime."

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "Penal policy is being driven by fear of embarrassment in the tabloid press. It is reminiscent of the worst excesses of Michael Howard's regime."

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# British veteran dies by bridge over River Kwai

A FORMER British soldier has died by the infamous bridge over the River Kwai where he was held prisoner by the Japanese during the building of the Burma-Stiam "Death Railway" in the Second World War.

Trevor Daikin, 77, who was a corporal in the 5th Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Light Infantry, had kept a vigil at the bridge in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, for ten years. He died of a heart attack without getting the apology he wanted from the Emperor of Japan.

Daikin, like Eric Lomax, author of *The Railway Man*, an autobiographical account of the prisoners' suffering, was one of a small band of POWs who had forgiven their former Japanese guards. But he still felt that Japanese reparations were insufficient and was angered by refusals to make public apologies.

The 1957 film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, was the most famous testament to the atrocities committed against British, Australian, American and Dutch prisoners of war, and thousands of Asian labourers who died building the railway.

**Former PoW had kept vigil beside 'Death Railway' for ten years, writes Andrew Drummond**

the bridge is now known as the River Kwai for the benefit of tourists. Daikin, who emigrated to Canada after the war, spent his last years living in a small rented house by the bridge and subsisting on a diet of rice and pork — but "nothing like the maggot-infested stuff the Japs gave us if we worked well". He rose at 5am with the Buddhist monks of Kanchanaburi and by mid-morning would begin his vigil on the railway, which now ends at Nam Tok, 40 miles from the Burma border.

He lectured tourists, especially Japanese teenagers, on the real history of the railway, which he said was not taught in Japanese schools, and sometimes took small parties of veterans to sites such as "Hellfire Pass", where one man was reputed to have died for every sleeper laid.

During the past few years he had struck up a friendship

with Nagase Takashi, the Japanese Kempetai interpreter who was present during Eric Lomax's torture sessions, and they met several times every year at the bridge, most notably on VJ-Day in 1995. In a show of public atonement Nagase Takashi apologises every year for the Japanese atrocities, but his actions are not popular in Japan.

Daikin had come to terms with his hatred: previously he would not talk to any Japanese nationals over the age of 60. Earlier this year he said: "I have learnt to forgive. The hate cannot go on forever — it eats you up. But I understand those who won't."

Rod Beattie, curator of the Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries in Thailand, said yesterday: "Trevor had decided that this was the place where his life would end. He was given a final send-off at a cremation at a local Buddhist temple. His ashes were scattered over the graves of former colleagues at the British war cemetery at Chungkai, just by the River Kwai."

Next week as Emperor Akihito visits London, a party of former Japanese soldiers will meet British Burma veterans in Rangoon and in Kanchanaburi. However, most of the British are not former POWs but arrived in Burma as the conquerors after the Japanese were turned back by British forces at Imphal.



Building bridges: Trevor Daikin embraces Nagase Takashi on the bridge at VJ-Day commemorations in 1995

## Duke denies opposing Akihito award

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday denied he had privately opposed the Queen's award of the Order of the Garter to the Japanese Emperor.

A statement from Buckingham Palace said: "The Duke has not expressed any view, privately or publicly, over the award of the Order of the Garter to the Emperor of Japan. He is well aware of the painful memories that the war caused to people, both from his own wartime experiences and from meeting veterans

and ex-prisoners of war over the years since."

The Duke the patron of the Burma Star Association for personnel who served in the Far East, will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with Emperor Akihito during his state visit later this month. The Garter will be conferred in a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Survivors of the Japanese prisoner of war camps are planning demonstrations during the visit in their campaign for a full apology and compensation from Japan for their ordeal. The Duke had

first-hand experience of their suffering when, as a young first lieutenant in the Royal Navy he helped to transport some of the prisoners on their way home. In 1995 he marked the fiftieth anniversary of VJ-Day by marching down The Mall with the Burma Star Association rather than standing with the Queen.

The Palace statement added: "For very many years, Prince Philip has worked for reconciliation and for a greater understanding between the two countries." Royal sources said that he reserved the right to refer *The Times* article to the Press Complaints Commission.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### M1 runaway blamed on speed device

The throttle on the lorry that ran away on the M1 jammed open when a device for limiting engine speed came on at the wrong time, the lorry's maker said. Scania Great Britain said the device was not its factory-fitted one, which was working normally, but an extra one meant to control the hydraulic equipment when the upper truck was stationary. The company said that the maker of the secondary device was investigating the fault.

#### Snap judgment

A widower who obsessively took pictures of his neighbours has been banned from photographing them. Magistrates at Abergele, North Wales, were told that Kenneth Thatcher, 78, had taken shots while they were out walking or driving for no clear reason.

#### Bus hits plane

Five passengers on an airport bus suffered minor injuries when it collided with the wing of a stationary plane at Manchester airport. An airport spokesman said: "The wing of the aircraft came right through the windshield on the driver's side of the bus."

#### Smoker fined

Scott Stevens, 24, of Manor Park, East London, was fined £350 by magistrates at Crawley, West Sussex, and ordered to pay £50 costs after admitting smoking in the lavatory of an aircraft. A charge of endangering the plane was dropped.

#### Illegal dog show

A man was held at Gatwick airport after an X-ray detected a dog inside his bag. Michael Wick, 42, was jailed for a day and fined £45 by Crawley magistrates for illegally importing the dog, brought from Tenerife the previous day. It was confiscated.

#### Cheesed off

Food inspectors in Derbyshire who examined 50 makes of supermarket pizzas found that six claiming to be topped with cheese were using cheese analogue, made from milk protein and vegetable oil. One maker faces prosecution and the shops have been warned.

## Teenager who killed Briton detained for seven years



By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND RACHEL BRIDGE

A BOY aged 13 who stabbed to death a British tourist as he walked to a bus stop in Sydney was given a seven-year custodial sentence yesterday. Gawen Whalley, 22, was on a six-month working holiday in Australia when he was attacked at random with a butterfly knife by the teenager, who had been drinking with a gang.

As Mr Whalley's parents, Roger and Margaret Kellow, watched from the public gallery, Justice Carolyn Simpson spoke of concern about the number of knife attacks taking place

in Australia. Sentencing the boy, who is now 15, she said that Mr Whalley's death was "an example of the dreadful consequences that can flow from the decision to carry a knife."

"Mr Whalley was a law-abiding member of the community who did nothing to provoke this vicious and cowardly attack. It is distressing and extremely difficult to sentence someone so young for any act of violence but more so for the crime of murder."

A second youth, Richard Soriano, then 18, was sentenced to 4½ years' imprisonment after admitting manslaughter. The court was told that Mr

Whalley, from Dorset, was on his way home from his job in a post office supplies firm to his flat in the beach resort of Coogee, in April 1996. As he walked to the bus stop, he was seen by the 13-year-old, who, with five other teenagers, was driving through the suburb in a pick-up truck. A police statement said that the youths had driven past before deciding to turn back and "roll or rob" him.

The 13-year-old leapt from the car with Soriano and demanded money from Mr Whalley before threatening him with a martial arts knife. When Mr Whalley refused to hand over any money, Soriano beat him to the

ground and the younger teenager began to stab him with the butterfly blade. He was left dying by the roadside from chest and head wounds as his attacker fled.

His lifeless body was found 30 minutes later by a passer-by, with his wallet still in his jacket. The court was told that the killer had washed himself and discarded the knife before driving into a neighbouring suburb with his gang to buy another crate of beer.

The judge said that the sentence had to take into account that Mr Whalley's attacker was extremely young, mildly intellectually impaired

and had been drinking alcohol on the night of the killing. He conceded that that was unlikely to console the Whalley family. The boy will serve his sentence in a juvenile detention centre in Sydney.

Mrs Kellow said: "I don't think the time is long enough for him to realise the enormity of what he has actually done. Gawen was such a bright person, he loved life and he just wanted to see Australia and come back but he's never coming back."

Mr Kellow said: "Gawen would never hurt anybody. In fact, just the opposite. He would try to help anyone in need."

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# Architect of baroque Rome comes home in splendour for 400th birthday



Bernini: works brought together for first time

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

GIAN LORENZO BERNINI, the sculptor, painter and architect who almost singlehandedly created baroque Rome, is being honoured with an unprecedented exhibition of his work which opens tomorrow at the recently restored Villa Borghese. The exhibition, marking the 400th anniversary of Bernini's birth, brings together for the first time scattered masterpieces from New York, Madrid and Berlin, joining those already in the magnificent frescoed villa where Bernini worked in the 17th century for his patron, Cardinal Scipione Borghese. "Bernini has come home," said *La Repubblica*. The focus is his early work as his genius began to flower in his twenties. *Corriere della Sera* said the result was a "sensual profusion of fauns, gods, heroes and hermaphrodites in pure white marble". Anna Coliva, one of the exhibition organisers, said it had taken three years to persuade the Prado in Madrid, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and other galleries to part with their Bernini works. The exhibition includes two busts of the portly Cardinal Borghese, the favourite nephew of Pope Paul V, who was patron to Bernini and other artists. Cardinal Borghese employed Bernini both as a sculptor and as an expert restorer of Greek and Roman sculpture, but Bernini's works soon came to equal and even surpass his ancient models. The Cardinal was described by the Venetian Ambassador of the time as "a man of mediocre learning, given to pleasure and pastimes", but "wholly ruthless" in his devotion to the fine arts, stealing and confiscating paintings if necessary to swell his collection. The organisers have brought together Bernini's self-portraits, making it clear that his famous statue of David about to slay Goliath has Bernini's own face, as does his *Anima Dannata*, or *Damned Soul* (lent by the Spanish Embassy). Bernini's David is also juxtaposed for the first time with other portrayals of the biblical giant slayer, including Caravaggio's portrait of David holding Goliath's severed head aloft. The exhibition includes Bernini's *Aeneas and Anchises*, the *Rape of Proserpine*, *Apollo and Daphne* (with Daphne turning into a laurel tree as she flees the Sun god), and *Hermaphrodite*, kept in the Louvre and not seen in Rome since 1808. Signora Coliva said one major work not included was *Neptune*, which is at the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. She said she had not asked the V & A to send the statue because it was a "large and delicate work", and transporting it from London would have been a "risky undertaking". Bernini - later the protégé of Pope Urban VIII - also created much of the Rome that visitors see today, including the colonnade of St Peter's (and much of the Basilica itself), the bridge across the Tiber from the Castel Sant'Angelo, which is lined with his carved angels, and numerous fountains, including the *Fountain of the Four Rivers* in Piazza Navona. **Bernini and the Birth of the Baroque. Villa Borghese, Rome, May 15 - September 20, 12,000 lira (€4). Closed Mondays. Reservations essential. Rome (06) 32810.**



Anima Dannata: bears the sculptor's face

# Paris bomb triggers fears for World Cup

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE discovery of a bomb on a Paris pavement and the simultaneous arrests of eight suspected Islamic militants in London have heightened fears of a terror campaign during the World Cup in France.

In the wake of the arrests and the disposal of the bomb, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French Interior Minister, issued a call yesterday for the public to be vigilant during the football tournament beginning on June 10.

"We are at the mercy of a certain number of groups whose criminal activities we are aware of... an event of this size, naturally, requires extra vigilance," he said.

French police played down reports that the eight men, arrested in London on Tues-

day under anti-terrorist laws in a joint operation with French and Belgian authorities, had elaborate plans to bomb the World Cup. But they did not rule out the possibility that the bomb defused by explosives experts could be a precursor to a terror campaign at the tournament.

The device, found outside a France Telecom building in the 19th arrondissement of Paris, had been timed to explode one month before the start of the World Cup. "The date could be very significant," one French police source said.

The bomb, made from a gas canister packed with black powder and metal fragments, was similar to those used in 1995 during a wave of bombings blamed on the Armed

Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the groups fighting to overthrow the military-backed government in Algiers.

The detonator was described as "almost identical" to the triggers used in the series of attacks three years ago, which left eight people dead and scores injured.

The men arrested in London are suspected of being members of the GIA, which has vowed revenge against the French Government for allegedly bankrolling and supporting the regime in Algiers.

The 1995 bombing campaign in France was designed to spread panic and cause maximum carnage by targeting public areas, such as the Saint Michel metro station, whereas the bomb planted this

week was less powerful and timed to explode at night and cause property damage.

Police are also investigating the possibility that the bomb was the work of Corsican separatists. On Tuesday one of the most active guerrilla groups in Corsica claimed responsibility for last week's bomb attack on the regional council in Marseilles.

Unlike the earlier attacks believed to be the work of Algerian Islamic militants, the bomb at the telephone company regional headquarters was not well disguised. A young receptionist noticed wires sticking out of the bag containing the device, placed directly in front of the building, and alerted police. The theory that the bomb was intended as a warning before the World Cup is at odds with the wholly unpredictable earlier attacks by suspected Islamic terrorists. Another theory is that the device was specifically designed by terrorists to test the efficiency of the "Vigipirate" security plan, set in place after the 1995 bombing campaign but since relaxed.

The security plan is expected to be put back into force during the World Cup. "I can assure you that all necessary measures will be taken," M Chevènement told reporters. "We must seek a balance between security, on the one hand, and having a good time on the other."

# Fans face travel strike threat

BY BEN MACINTYRE

TRAIN drivers paralysed much of the French rail network with a one-day national strike yesterday and gave a warning that the chaos could be repeated during the World Cup unless their demands are met.

Bernard Thibault, who is expected to take over leadership of the hardline Communist-led CGT union, said he would not be able to prevent union members from striking

during the football tournament next month if management did not move quickly to meet calls for higher wages, additional staff and a rapid shift to a 35-hour week.

"We are not framing our demands in terms of blackmail. Nobody wants the World Cup to be disrupted by industrial action, but that said, one cannot pretend, just because there is a World Cup, that there is no point in continuing the fight," M Thibault said.

Roger Poletti, the head of the Force Ouvrière lorry drivers' union, has already vowed to block traffic around stadiums during the World Cup unless wages are increased.

Although the Eurostar cross-channel service was unaffected yesterday, the SNCF network reported fewer than a third of trains operating normally, while suburban services were even more restricted. Traffic jams built up around major cities as commuters took to cars.



President Chirac bids adieu to Hillary Clinton after a luncheon at the Elysee Palace yesterday. She was on the second day of a two-day fact-finding visit to France while President Clinton arrived in Germany where today he will take part in celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the West's airlift to Berlin. A

# Hillary enjoys fact-finding trip to France

she focused on feminism, meeting prominent women and having talks with French leaders. Mrs Clinton's day began over coffee with Sylviane Agacinski, a philosopher who has just published a book on the history of feminism and is the wife of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister. (AFP)

# European bank chief approved by MEPs

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

WIM DUISENBERG and the five other managers of the future euro were given overwhelming endorsement by the European Parliament yesterday despite MEPs' dislike of the political carve-up of posts at the European Central Bank (ECB) at last week's Brussels summit.

The Dutchman's appointment as president of the ECB was approved by 439 votes to 40, with 59 abstentions. The Parliament's blessing, required by the Maastricht treaty, was a relief to European Union governments, which have weathered much criticism over the deal that promised Mr Duisenberg's job to a Frenchman after only four years of his eight-year term.

Mr Duisenberg, 62, himself defused MEPs' indignation at hearings last week at which he attacked the British-brokered compromise, insisted that he would operate with complete independence and would retire at a date of his own choice. His remarks effectively changed little because he confirmed that he did plan to retire early, as demanded by France, but they delighted MEPs.

Although the Parliament has no power to veto the appointments, its disapproval, or even a close vote, would have inflicted embarrassment and possibly shaken confidence in the future single currency.


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# India's poor pay price of nuclear party for elite

RICH India is celebrating its gate-crashing of the nuclear club. Its pride soars out of the pages of newspapers and from the mouths of bellicose politicians. This is the greatest orgy of nationalism in 50 years of independence. The poor are not invited to the party, although they will pay for it.

There are two Indias. One can make much of the world's software, fly missiles, detonate nuclear bombs, build computers, amend universities. The other can barely feed itself or send its children to school.

Rich India is having a nuclear bomb party and the poor will get the hangover. When economic sanctions bite they will leave no marks on the privileged but will sink into the flesh of the neediest, many of whom owe their survival to foreign assistance.

Hardly a single commentator or politician has contemplated the impact of sanctions on the poor, reflecting the low priority of the under-privileged majority both in state assemblies and the national parliament. The poor are important in elections, when they make and break governments, but then they are forgotten amid the preoccupations of a political system based on the acquisition and maintenance of elite centres of power.

Poor India is forgotten now as rich India beats its chest loud enough to be heard in Beijing and Islamabad, where the sudden emergence of a super-confident, nuclear-proficient India has raised concern, if not alarm.

This is demonstrably an unpredictable new India, its Government barely two

**Squalor, malnutrition and illiteracy expose failures of new superpower politics, Christopher Thomas writes**

months old, led by untested right-wing Hindus — some with an extremist political agenda — exercising national power for the first time. In the name of national pride and a perceived security threat, the Government of Atal Behari Vajpayee has denied the poor billions of dollars in foreign aid.

Anything becomes possible



Vajpayee yesterday: nationalist agenda

if world opinion matters so little to India that it can ignore two days of unrelenting international condemnation and set off another two nuclear devices, knowing that the economic price would devastate the under-privileged. It risks being branded a rogue state.

Most of the poor do not know the implications of what is happening, except that the news they hear on government-controlled All India Radio is filled with the sounds of partying. They cannot read the newspapers because they are illiterate or too poor to buy them, and even if they could they would read about a nation unrecognisable from the one they know — a country feverish with the idea of being a superpower, the sixth member of the nuclear club, a giant that everybody will have to take seriously.

This image of Superpower India is hard to reconcile with the filthy water coming out of the village tap or the absence of any kind of sewerage facilities anywhere in the country. The panting headlines proclaiming India's arrival as a First World power hardly square with the nation's inability to send most of its children to primary school.

It may soon be possible for India to dispatch a nuclear-tipped missile deep into China and Pakistan, but there will still be no guarantee of being

# WE WELCOME N-TESTS



Supporters of India's decision to stage the tests and defy international opinion celebrate at the Prime Minister's residence in Delhi yesterday

able to telephone the man next door with any certainty of getting through.

Pakistan is equally dismissive of its poor, who are suppressed by a feudal system that belittles democracy. South Asia, which for statistical purposes means India and Pakistan, the cradle of great civilisations, religions and cultures, is now worse off than sub-Saharan Africa in almost every measure, including malnutrition and disease. But they are nuclear superpowers. The two Indias, like the two Pakistans, are hardly recognisable to each other any more, one defined by growing power, the other by deepening poverty.

Leading article and letters, page 23

## West's hypocrisy denies Delhi seat at power-brokers' table

**A** crid gusts of hypocrisy are blowing over Delhi. They come not from Pokhran, that speck on the map in the Thar desert which is now a nuclear starline for overzealous nationalists, nor even from the office of Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister. Instead, these gusts have come to India from Washington, from London, from Berlin, Tokyo and Canberra.

For conducting a short series of nuclear tests, India —

### COMMENTARY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

an unquestionably democratic country, a country where the armed forces cannot buy a stapler or fire a gun without first obtaining civilian clearance, a country bordered by two states with whom wars have been fought and from whom a real threat is perceived — has been cast in the role of a "rogue state", a "nuclear cowboy", a threat to world peace. Nothing could be further from the truth, and Delhi is rightly indignant that few states have had the honesty to admit as much.

There are two broad arguments in India's defence: the first is based on principle, the second on regional strategic calculations. India was under no legal obligation to desist from nuclear tests. It is party to neither the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) nor the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The former, perceived in India as insulting, is at the root of Indian discontent. Delhi regards it as discriminatory, as it limits the number of states allowed "legitimately" to be classed as nuclear to the five existing powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China.

Under the treaty, which Delhi has always opposed, India is deemed a "non-nuclear" state. The 1994 Nuclear Proliferation Prevention

Act, now invoked by President Clinton, makes it mandatory for the US to impose sanctions on "non-nuclear" states that conduct tests. The Indian reaction is summed up pithily by *The Times of India* in an editorial today: "Apart from being oxymoronic — a state that conducts a nuclear test can hardly be considered 'non-nuclear' — the law is discriminatory as it seeks to punish others for exercising a right which the US and the other four big powers have arrogated to themselves."

India, a country with powerful global aspirations — which has contributed more troops to United Nations peacekeeping efforts than virtually any other — refuses to be told what it can do in the nuclear realm by states that have made no concrete commitment to disarm.

India has legitimate security concerns. Would the Americans agree to forgo a military option if their security was threatened by hostile neighbours? Has Israel? Would Britain? China is armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons. India cannot hope to match them warhead for warhead: but it can at least hope to play the deterrence game, using the Cold War as its template.

Pakistan — contrary to the views of Western commentators — is not the country that was uppermost in India's mind when it conducted this week's tests. But as K. Subrahmanyam, India's foremost strategic analyst, wrote on Tuesday: "If Pakistan wants to conduct its own test, let it do so. The world has to recognise that there are eight nuclear weapon states with Israel, and that the world is no more unsafe than the one with five nuclear powers."

The next Indian step would appear to be the pursuit of a no-first-use pact with Pakistan and China. The Russians, too, should be approached to join. It is hard to see how that would threaten global stability.

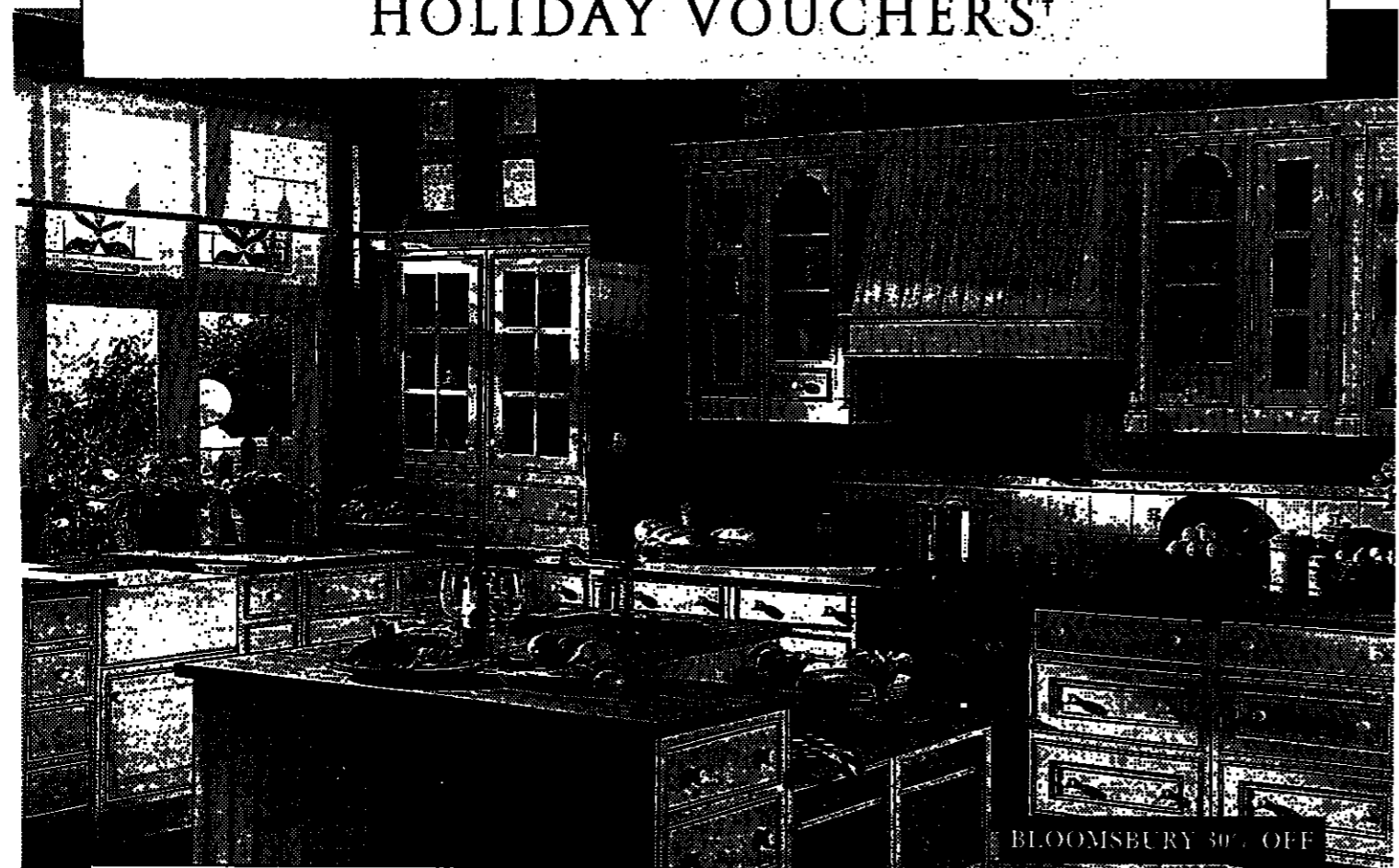
Sanctions will, it seems, be slapped on India, but their scale is not so enormous as to deflect the country's Government from its present course. In any case, so popular have the tests proved that Western attempts to gang up on India will only stiffen Mr Vajpayee's nationalist resolve.

What is more, as aid from abroad dries up, the Government, which has a well-documented dislike of foreign investment, will have little option but to turn to private investors from abroad to fuel the growth of India's economy — an ironic, but welcome, fallout from this week's complex events.

The author is a British citizen who was born and brought up in India.

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# Senators outraged by 'colossal failure' of CIA to give warning

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

## INTELLIGENCE

THE US Senate opens hearings today into the "colossal" failure of the CIA and other American intelligence agencies to provide warning of India's nuclear tests, the biggest breach of international arms control for decades.

They had taken place at exactly the same site as India's last nuclear experiment in 1974 and in full view of a US spy satellite that detected unambiguous evidence of underground preparations six hours before the tests took place, according to officials.

recognised their failure the next morning on examining earlier pictures of the site in the Rajasthan desert. "We want to know why this happened, how this happened: who was asleep, why they were asleep," said Richard Shelby, the Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who launches his inquiry today.

also started investigating the inadequate chain of information. George Tenet, the CIA Director, has appointed David Jeremiah, a retired admiral and a former Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to investigate and report back by next week.

Embarrassment in Washington has been made all the more acute by the fact that heavy concentrations of weapons of mass destruction in South and Central Asia, particularly in India, Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Iran and Iraq, have long made the regions a special focus for American intelligence.

ment of nuclear weapons was very important but a difficult target for the United States. India, the CIA said, had gone to great lengths to conceal its intentions.

gencc. others said that the debacle reflected mistakes by both policymakers and spies.

# Rebuff by Delhi exposes limits of America's power

IT HAS been a terrible week for American foreign policy. The United States may be the world's only superpower, but the rebuffs it has suffered by India and Israel, two countries so apparently dependent on its patronage, show how much it has overestimated its influence since the end of the Cold War.



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX

Yesterday in Potsdam, when Mr Clinton commemorated the Berlin airlift of 50 years ago, he must have wished that foreign problems were still so simple that they could be solved by that kind of dramatic manoeuvre.

In Israel's case, the Administration rightly followed the logic of its previous statements and tried to step up pressure. But it made the mistake of imposing deadlines it was never prepared to enforce.

This nightmare of proliferation is curiously captured in *Deep Impact*, the latest blockbuster from Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks. A comet is hurtling towards Earth, but NASA's attempt to blow it up splits the icy head into fragments and multiplies the threat.

## Instead of a single enemy, America faces a host of shifting nationalistic states

In the case of India and Israel, the Administration seems similarly at a loss. Both governments are dependent on American aid, trade and military technology.

One reason is that the Administration was looking the wrong way. Its foreign policy is weakened by its current preoccupation with Nato expansion, a personal passion of Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and Strobe Talbott, her deputy.

DEREK FATCHETT, a Foreign Office minister, yesterday summoned Pradeep Singh, the Indian acting High Commissioner, to express Britain's "shock and dismay" over the Indian nuclear tests.

# Tokyo suspends aid as London expresses dismay

BY MICHAEL BINTON AND ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

## REACTION

missioner, led a troika of European Union ambassadors to deliver a protest to the Foreign Ministry. There was a parallel troika meeting in Islamabad at which the EU urged Pakistan to exercise

restraint. British officials were cautious about any EU sanctions. They said that there was no comparison with Iraq, and Britain did not have the same legislation as American that triggered an automatic response.

Japan, India's biggest aid donor, announced it was suspending grants-in-aid and hinted at a freeze on its substantial official loans to India.

Russia, France and several other countries have made clear they would not take punitive measures against Delhi.



Memories of a simpler era: President Clinton and Helmut Kohl in Potsdam yesterday to commemorate the Berlin airlift of 50 years ago

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# Riots force Suharto to cut short Cairo visit

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

PRESIDENT SUHARTO was cutting short a visit to Cairo and flying home as mobs rampaged through Jakarta and other Indonesian cities yesterday in a renewed onslaught on his regime. Ten people were killed; nine of them were believed to be Chinese burnt when their shops and homes were set on fire. Rioters fought street battles with the security forces, looting and setting fire to a petrol station and dozens of buildings in the capital. The police fired on the rioters a day after the security forces had shot dead six student demonstrators. The rioting in Jakarta started when the police tried to break

up a rally marking the deaths of the six students. Motorcycle police charged the memorial rally, firing in the air as they came. Troops abseiled from helicopters on to the gathering and opened fire with plastic bullets. One doctor said that live ammunition had been used. Violent unrest was also reported in several other cities. In Yogyakarta, central Java, yesterday, thousands of students hurled petrol bombs at the security forces who were trying to stop them leaving the campus of Gajah Mada University. The security forces replied with water cannon and teargas. They also used riot police firing from the back of



Riot police prepare to fire from the back of motorcycles as they try to confine students to Gajah Mada University campus in Yogyakarta, central Java, yesterday

motorcycles. Many people collapsed in the heavy teargas attacks. In Bandung, West Java, it was reported that about 5,000 students marched to the local parliament and took over the building. In Jakarta, up to 6,000 people had gathered peacefully

near a university campus for the memorial rally. Megawati Sukarnoputri, the opposition leader, joined the mourners in a minute's silence, then said as she laid a wreath: "We are people who love peace, but what we want most is our freedom". Many in the crowd were

and who has served several times in the Suharto Government, said: "We cannot go on like this. This is very bad, a terrible shock. Suharto must soften his position. We have to find out what is feasible, we cannot go on along this road." Leaders of the army and security forces had held

lengthy talks overnight with human rights activists as they waited for the return of President Suharto from his visit to Cairo, but the negotiations do not appear to have resulted in any change of policy. Amien Rais, leader of the 28-million-strong Muhammadiyah

Islamic movement said: "They shot innocent people. They shot innocent people." He added: "It's the police who are the criminals". As a result of the rioting, the value of the rupiah fell five per cent during the day and the stockmarket declined a further 8 per cent.

## Israeli air raid kills terrorist suspects

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI warplanes killed at least ten people and wounded more than 20 others yesterday as they slept at a suspected training camp for pro-Syrian terrorists a few miles from the Syrian border.

The rare overnight raid on a base of Fatah Uprising, the PLO-breakaway group, was the deadliest by Israeli jets since an aerial and ground blitz of Lebanon killed at least 175 people in April 1996.

The raid came as Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, headed for Washington for talks with Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, on reviving the peace talks. Mrs Albright has said that Washington would revive its idea for a Middle East summit if she could agree with Mr Netanyahu over the scale of the next troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

Foreign Report said that the Syrian regime has moved two Scud C missile units — each consisting of 18 launchers and about 50 missiles — to secret sites near Damascus. The newsletter claimed that with the assistance of Russian scientists, the missiles were being fitted with improved chemical warheads.

The air raid in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, about 30 miles southeast of the Lebanese capital Beirut, followed a mortar assault by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group on Monday in which two Israeli soldiers were wounded.

In Jerusalem, an Arab labourer, aged 51, was stabbed to death near the ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim quarter. Brussels: The European Commission called yesterday on EU governments to block trade privileges for imports from Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.



Dana yesterday: caught in "deviant" storm

## Knesset blocks female singers

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A NEW battle in the cultural war between secular and religious Jews flared yesterday as female members of an Israeli army vocal ensemble were banned from singing at the inauguration of President Weizman to avoid upsetting ultra-Orthodox Jewish politicians.

Avram Poraz, a left-wing Knesset member, led the campaign against the three women members of the Israel Defence Force being banned from the Knesset plenum, when Mr Weizman is sworn in for his second term next Monday. "It is a serious incident with an element of religious coercion," he said.

The ban outraged secular Jews throughout Israel. The domestic cultural war, which some leading Israeli commentators predict could eventually spill over into civil conflict — worsened when religious politicians condemned Israel's transgender Eurovision song contest winner, Dana International, as a "deviant" and tried to prevent the contest being staged in Jerusalem next year.

Mr Poraz attempted in vain to persuade Dan Tichon, the Knesset Speaker, to allow the women singers to appear at the plenum, claiming that the ceremony was not religious in nature and therefore there was no reason to prevent the women singing. Religious Jews do not allow women to sing in front of men.

A Knesset spokesman said the request had been rejected because in the past only men had appeared at such events.

## Cary, my darling?

Yes Audrey, my sweet?



Do you mind if we stop a moment? The view looks so enchanting.

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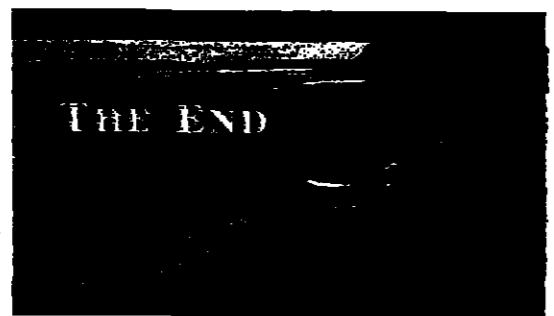
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# Financier behind Sandline deal may name names

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN VANCOUVER

THE imprisoned financier who played a key role in the Sierra Leone arms affair has issued a veiled threat to name more British officials who, he claims, knew in advance of Sandline International's involvement in the affair.

Rakesh Saxena, who now says he paid \$4-\$5 million (£2.4-£3 million) to help restore President Kabbah's regime in Sierra Leone in February, said that more names "will probably be revealed when the timing is right". In an interview with *The Times* he also insisted that Sandline's support for Mr Kabbah has been common knowledge throughout the Commonwealth since at least last year.

Mr Saxena, speaking hours after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons that his department was blameless in the affair, described Sandline's 35-tonne arms shipment to Sierra Leone as "one piece of paperwork in a broad scheme of things" and not a violation of a United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone as critics contend.

He said: "Whether Mr Cook had direct knowledge of this particular shipment I am not qualified to say, but a lot of

ministers and intelligence agencies in the Commonwealth were definitely aware that something was cooking. There is really no question of that."

Sandline, the British security firm founded by a former SAS lieutenant-colonel, has already named four Foreign Office officials it claims had approved its activities in Sierra Leone.

Those activities included intelligence-gathering and ferrying Mr Kabbah's ministers between Europe and Africa. On Tuesday, Mr Cook effectively accused the company of lying, saying he had "more faith in my officials than I have in Sandline."

Mr Saxena's credibility has been weakened since his arrest near Vancouver in connection with a Thai banking scandal two years ago. Nonetheless, his comments will embarrass the Foreign Office, not least because his claim that Sandline's Sierra Leone operations were an open secret is borne out by newspaper reports from as long ago as last August.

Six months before the February counter-coup that restored Mr Kabbah to power, the *Vancouver Sun* obtained

documents showing that Mr Saxena had already paid Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline \$70,000 to review military options in Sierra Leone. The newspaper also published extracts from a letter from the Kabbah Government-in-exile requesting Mr Saxena's assistance in training and arming a militia of 40,000.

Mr Saxena was happy to help. Then free on \$1 million bail, he cut a tubby but flamboyant figure in his rented Vancouver mansion, using as many as four mobile phones at once to run global business operations, including a Sierra Leonean bauxite-mining concession. He hoped to invest in "several other infrastructure projects" under a restored Kabbah regime, he said on Tuesday, and had close ties to the country's largest diamond mine.

Speaking by telephone from a Vancouver jail where he is fighting "Thai extradition efforts, Mr Saxena said he spent up to \$2.5 million on "business operations" in Sierra Leone leading up to February's counter-coup, as well as about \$500,000 on humanitarian aid and \$200,000 in fees to Sandline.



Rakesh Saxena says Sandline's support for President Kabbah is common knowledge

# 'Kingmaker' must watch from far away

Britain's envoy in Sierra Leone is robbed of his glory, writes

Sam Kiley

Confined to his riverside home in the English countryside, Peter Penfold, the absent British High Commissioner to Freetown, has been robbed of his finest hour as Sierra Leone's "kingmaker".

While Customs investigators study how much he and other officials knew of the counter-coup planned by British mercenaries, the High Commissioner's residence on Freetown's Station Hill stands as a deserted monument to Mr Penfold's major part in a minor country.

The Union Jack is raised and the envoy's blue Land Rover sits polished and waiting outside the mission, which is manned now only by Colin Glass, the affable Deputy High Commissioner, and two Military Police bodyguards who never move without their bulky holdall bags.

Elsewhere in the capital, however, the British role in returning President Kabbah to power has led to sweeping changes after the fear engendered by the junta until only a few weeks ago.

Restored to office by Nigerian peacekeepers with the aid of Sandline International, the British security company, Mr Kabbah has moved quickly to try to end 40 years of exploitation of his country at the hands of carpetbaggers who have plundered its vast mineral reserves with impunity.

For generations foreigners have smuggled gems, abundant in the east and south, without paying any kind of tax but profiting hugely from the commercial ignorance of the diamond miners who spend months shovelling tonnes of earth in the hope of finding a saleable stone.

"Diamond and gold concessions and mining operations have been ordered closed until we have done a thorough investigation of the circumstances of how and why these concessions were issued, and what Sierra Leone stands to get out of them," Septimus Kai Kai, the presidential spokesman and a former economics

professor, said. "If the deals look like we are not going to benefit from our own resources, the concessions will have to be renegotiated."

The tougher approach of the Government has delighted long-term investors such as Louisiana-born Roger Crooks. Another of Freetown's kingmakers, he was intimately involved in the discussions that brought Sandline to Sierra Leone. A close associate of the restored Government, he hired his own helicopter to the Ecomog peacekeeping operation.

An oil engineer by trade, he described Sierra Leone as the "great casino". "To win big," he said, "you've gotta bet. These other people crowding in don't want to do anything at all for the country, just make a quick buck and leave."

Mr Crooks, who spent nine months in exile with Mr Kabbah and Mr Penfold, now lives in a small flat in the bombed-out wreck of the Mama Yoko Hotel. He had invested \$3 million (£1.8 million) in the site; then it became the scene of a showdown between Nigerian Ecomog troops and the junta when they took power last year.

Almost 800 people were evacuated from the hotel in May last year. Mr Crooks crept back to Freetown a few months later in a native dugout to wrestle a helicopter and an aircraft from the junta's clutches.

"I'm here for the long haul," he said. "You've gotta be, they change the government here every two years." Why was he staying on? Just a "basic inability to stop loving Africa."

# Diplomats in Africa may have broken embargo

Adamant Blair denies a deliberate breach, Philip Webster and Michael Evans report

TONY BLAIR insisted yesterday that he had seen not a "shred of evidence" that ministers connived in a policy of supplying arms to Sierra Leone.

But, during noisy Question Time exchanges, the Prime Minister added to speculation that the Government could be preparing to accept that officials serving in Africa may have inadvertently been involved in breaching a United Nations embargo.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had on Tuesday provisionally cleared all officials in the Foreign Office's Africa department of ignoring United Nations resolutions over the supply of arms. But it was made plain that the clearance did not, at this stage, extend to diplomats serving in Sierra Leone, including Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner.

In an apparent slip of the tongue,

Mr Blair told the Commons that there should be no breach of the embargo, before hastily inserting "deliberate" before "breach". Some senior politicians believe there could be a defence for diplomats if it were shown they thought - wrongly - that they were implementing the Government's objective of seeing the democratic Government restored.

Mr Blair yesterday went as far as claiming credit for the overthrow of the military junta. Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Aldershot, asked the Prime Minister how he could "claim credit for the outcome in Sierra Leone when he says he did nothing to help to bring it about". Mr

Blair replied: "I am not saying we did nothing. We did a great deal to bring it about. We sent HMS Cornwall down there on humanitarian aid, we appointed a special representative to help President Kabbah." He claimed the Government had helped the Kabbah administration with money for schools, hospitals and transport. But Mr Blair added: "What we have not done is helped them with arms - that's the difference."

Today members of the powerful Select Committee on Foreign Affairs will ask Mr Cook to allow MPs to see telegrams relating to the affair. Sir John Kerr, head of the Foreign Office, faces a difficult, questioning session.

Foreign Office officials refused to comment on reports that a telegram sent in December by Mr Penfold, giving a warning that the military consultants Sandline International were preparing to break the UN embargo, had gone missing. A spokesman said it was a matter for the Customs and Excise investigation into alleged sanctions-busting by Sandline and, after that, for the independent inquiry ordered by Mr Cook.

Sandline executives - Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, executive director of Sandline, and Michael Grunberg, a consultant to the London-based company - are expected to face their first in-depth questioning by Customs this week.

Customs investigators have already acquired paperwork and computer tapes from the company, having entered its premises in King's Road, Chelsea, early last month. They also took documents and tapes from Colonel Spicer's former matrimonial home and his present address.

Sandline's lawyers, S. J. Berwin & Co, had advised Colonel Spicer and Mr Grunberg against co-operating with Customs after investigators had requested interviews with their two clients under caution on May 6 and 7. Since then, however, the arms-to-Africa affair has developed into the biggest political row that the Blair Government has faced.

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said that the Foreign Office was being run like a "Dad's Army outfit" with the Foreign Secretary combining the "pomposity of Captain Mainwaring, the incompetence of Private Pike and the calm of Corporal Jones".

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The cool Chris Evans was a tonic for Anthea Turner

### Just what the doctor ordered

SO Anthea Turner has had a raucous night out with Chris Evans, who has not only restored her fragile ego, but performed what many would regard as a miracle. Anthea Turner is now cool.

It all began with a photocall. To mark National Nurses Day, Turner was clad in a truncated nurse's uniform. But far from being just the latest shot in the photo-opportunity war waged recently between the *Wish You Were Here* presenter and Della Bovey, her ex-lover's wife, the day was to acquire the kind of significance that will be recognised by jilted women.

Some hours later the pair hit that haunt of media trends, the Atlantic Bar & Grill. "Chris wants me to be more wicked," Turner confessed, in between pints of Black Velvet. What better antidote for a broken heart than a night on the town with Evans? He may not, at first sight, be every woman's idea of a dream date, but to a girl in Turner's situation, who wants to show the world that she is through crying into her pillow, the man renowned for making both his *Virgin Radio* slot and his *TFI Friday* chat show the epitome of Cool Britannia is the only man to be seen with. He's young, he's fun and he knows how to show a girl a good time. More than that, being singled out by him confers instant coolness by association — a phenomenon to be seen at work in the careers of Evans's friends.

notably Zoë Ball, the media babe.

A woman who has been dumped needs a man like Evans. Rejection is very damaging to a woman's self-esteem: not only does she feel unattractive to the one she loves, but also worries that no man will fancy her again. She needs reassurance — from a man who is not going to try to get her into bed.

Flirtation helps, especially when no strings are attached. Women with gay friends know how great it is to be able to confide in a man without worrying it will be seen as a come-on. Truman Capote, writer and wit, was a close friend of many of the world's most beautiful women, who told him things they never would have admitted to their husbands or lovers.

Other famous literary men who made better friends than lovers include Oscar Wilde — whose affectionate relationships with Ada Lovelace and Lillie Langtry predated his fatal attraction for Lord Alfred Douglas — and Lord Byron, who found time between his affairs to maintain an extensive correspondence with Lady Melbourne, who was old enough to his mother. "If she had been a few years younger," he once wrote afterwards, "what a fool she would have made of me had she thought it worth her while. And I should have lost a most valuable and agreeable friend."

CHRISTINA KONING

# Who's who on the 'it' list

Vogue has dealt a blow to merely well-dressed women by naming the 50 most stylish, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Grace Vidal once said: "Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies." There are society women who feel much the same about best-dressed lists. Whenever a friend appears, a little bit of them develops a nasty green rash. But then, money can buy you good clothes, and most of us can take consolation in our greater spiritual values and smaller Harvey Nichols' bill.

Alas, next month's *Vogue* will put paid to even that source of comfort. The magazine has done its worst and come out with a list of the 50 most stylish women. Damn and blast. What is that quotation about buying fashion but being born with style? *Vogue* has hammered it home with its definitive roll call of those who are chicer than thou, rather than simply richer.

It would be great to dismiss this as balderdash, but having watched both the Oscars and the Ballas, and seen legions of actresses looking terrible in very expensive dresses, it is difficult not to concede that the magazine has a point.

This won't stop the rest of us picking through the list with an embittered smile, and concluding that these women are richer on the whole, and that they have more leisure time. ("I'd sold Gernolene and dog food on the Portobello Road I'd shop there too..." etc.) None of which makes the list any less compelling, or any more palatable.

The first category in *Vogue's* 50 Most Stylish list is that of Divine Decadents, and the magazine cites Anna Piaggi (of *Italian Vogue*), Talitha Getty and Celia Birtwell (once married to Ossie Clarke and immortalised in David Hockney's painting *Mr and Mrs Clarke and Percy*), and Edith Sitwell.

Sitwell is a clear example of someone with limitless leisure and large amounts of money. On the other hand, one cannot help admiring her for overcoming the terrible impediment of a very large nose to become an enduring symbol of eccentric elegance. "Why not be oneself?" she once asked. "That is the whole secret of a successful appearance. If one is a greyhound, why try to look like a poodles?"

This self-knowledge is what defines the Nineties norminess, especially Lady Amanda Harlech, the former muse to John Galiano — she would send twigs or pebbles through the post as inspiration — and now Karl Lagerfeld's right-hand woman. Her young cousin Ramona Rainey is there, too. Ramona, who works as a researcher for Chanel, appar-

ently has a wonderful way with dangling double-C earrings. Lucy Ferry, wife of Bryan Ferry, is included, as is the British couturier Deborah Milner and the soignée Countess of Cawdor. The main qualification seems to be a very large wardrobe and a taste for Manolo Blahniks in all weathers.

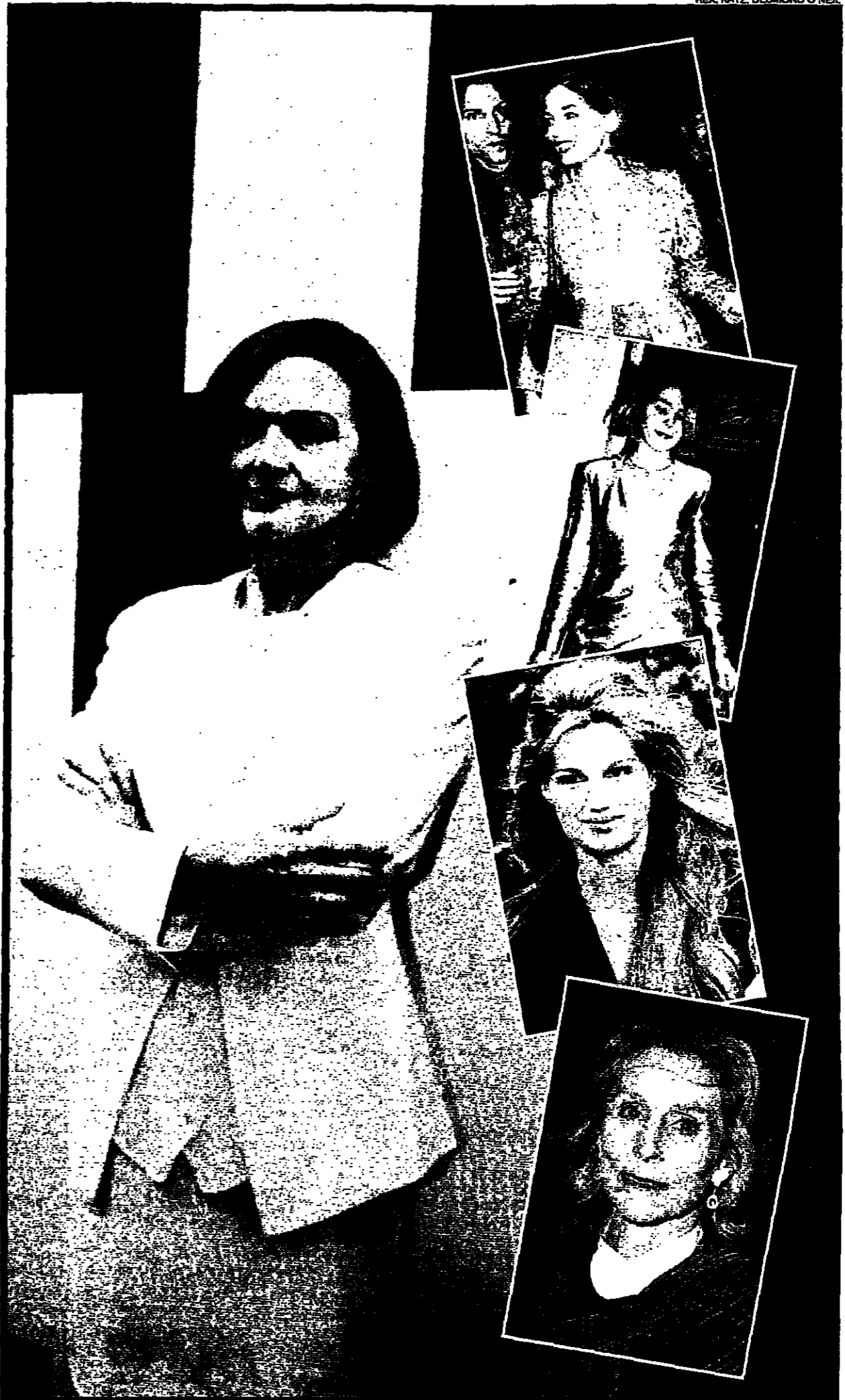
The other categories are Aggro Girls (icons include Courtney Love and Patti Smith), Eclectic Chicks (think Marianna Faithfull and Anita Pallenberg), Quirky Classicists (Tina Chow, Bianca Jagger and the sculptor Elisabeth Frink are the inspirations). In *A Closet Of Their Own* (the late Diana Vreeland et al), The Clean Team (Carolyn Bessette Kennedy is their patron saint) and Label Queens (the icons are also contemporary — Nicole Kidman, Gwyneth Paltrow and Madonna).

Not surprisingly, the list as a whole bulges with "it" girls, though the best of them all, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, is pointedly omitted. Others who do make it are Tamara Yeardy, who now works for the shoe designer Jimmy Choo, but who gained a certain notoriety when she posed nearly naked for a handbag advert, alongside Tara and the

other Tamara (Beckwith). She gets a mention as a Label Queen, as does rock chick Patsy Kensit (included, although Meg Matthews, wife of Noel Gallagher, is not). The other label queens are Viscountess Linley, Victoria Gooder (Gucci's PR), Caroline Michel, a leading light in publishing, and Solange Azagury-Partridge, the jewellery designer.

Jade Jagger, it girl/rock chick/artist, also makes the list, as an eclectic chick, along with the likes of Stella McCartney (whose last *Chloé* collection took rock chicks as its inspiration), Anna Friel and Kate Moss.

There are people here you have probably never heard of — such as Pippa Brooks, the owner of Shop, a super-trendy boutique in Soho, and Leonie Naess, a New York singer who is the step-daughter of Diana Ross. Both are Aggro Girls, the qualifications for which are apparently "lithe limbs and a serious scowl". Camilla Nickerson, the whipper-thin fashion director of *American Vogue*, is another one. They are joined by Skin, from the band Skunk Anansie, and Erin O'Connor, the British model who stars in this season's Versace campaign. Is one kind of style better than another? The *Vogue* team have passed no judgment —



Chic chicks: Anna Ford and, from top, Lucie de la Falaise, Serena Stanhope, Gemima Khan and the Countess of Cawdor

but they have devoted an entire page to The Clean Team, the sort of terrifying groomed women who have haunted us all since schooldays. All of them have straight hair, and several, including Anna Ford, the fashion PR Tracey Brower, and Lucie de la Falaise have those sparrow-like figures that no amount of dieting can hope to emulate. Kristin Scott-Thomas features here, as do Lady Helen Taylor and the designer Betty

Jackson. Lady Weinberg, aka Anouska Hempel, is here, surely one of the only women who can sit in a minimalist interior and not clutter the space. (The Hempel, her new restaurant, is not the sort of place you can feel comfortable in with more than one bag, or with curly hair.)

So who, besides the ubiquitous Tara P-T, might we have expected to be here? Well, for starters there are very few British actresses — no Helena Bonham Carter, no Kate Winslet, no Sadie Frost. Justine Frischmann, the lead singer of Elastic and girlfriend of Damon Albarn, does not merit a mention. Nor does Shazlee Spiteri, despite being lead singer of Texas, girlfriend of Ashley Heath, leading light on *The Face*, and, as a result, favourite subject of the fashion photographer Jürgen Teller. Stella Tennant is regarded as being in a Closet of Her Own, but Honor Fraser, Sophie Dahl and Iris Palmer are not (although Fraser's mother, Virginia, is in the Quirky Classicists category). Karen Elson, the British supermodel, is absent, too — but then one of her great selling points is that she really would not give a damn.

If they cannot make it, what hope is there for the rest of us? Still, there are subtler aspirations than style. As John Cooper Clarke, the punk poet, said: "With charm you've got to get up close to see it: style slaps you in the face."

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The world will have I

# Forgive the poorest their debts — now

## Basil Hume throws down a challenge to the G8 summit

On Saturday the site of this weekend's G8 summit in Birmingham, bringing together the leaders of the world's richest countries, will be encircled, at a respectful distance, by a human chain. More than 30,000 people are expected to take part in a peaceful demonstration organised by Jubilee 2000 and aid agencies in pursuit of a millennial goal which has fired the public imagination: the remission of the unpayable external debts of the world's poorest countries.

Despite some notable progress in recent years, many poor countries continue to be saddled with a massive and still growing backlog of unpayable debts to foreign governments and international financial institutions. In addition to the human costs of diverting scarce resources, the burden of debt deters foreign investment and stifles economic development. The result is both an economic and a humanitarian catastrophe.

In many cases, debtor countries, or their past administrations, share part of the blame. Corruption, mismanagement and war have all wreaked havoc with fragile economies. But creditor countries, their banks and other financial institutions, have also been guilty of profligate lending, imposing unreasonable repayment conditions, and indulging in irresponsible arms sales. Whatever the detailed history, it is the poorest people in the poorest countries who can be blamed the least. And they have suffered the most.

It is not, however, just a question of the major creditor countries and their institutions being prepared to act. Debtor countries too have obligations to ensure that the benefits of debt relief meet the basic needs of their poorest people.

What is required, therefore, is a joint commitment from creditors and debtors. In 1996 the IMF and the World Bank launched the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, designed to offer the prospect of debtors and creditors sharing responsibility for agreeing and implementing a comprehensive strategy which, over a period of years, would lead to a final release from unpayable debt for many of the most acute cases.

Although some progress has been made, last weekend's G8 Finance Ministers' communiqué says that so far only six countries have been declared eligible for HIPC debt relief. It expresses hopes that more will follow, but there is increasing anxiety among the charities working with the very poorest, such as Cafod, Christian Aid and Oxfam, that the HIPC initiative is in danger of petering out little too late. The debt relief granted to Uganda, for instance, will allow an increase in government spending equivalent to only \$1 per person per year — and this is in a country where one in every five children dies before the age of five. Furthermore, there are a number of countries, such as Rwanda and

Liberia, just emerging from appalling internal conflict, which are at present ineligible for help under HIPC but desperately in need of debt relief.

The present British Government, building on the notable efforts of the previous administration, has been at the forefront of seeking to forge an international consensus for more effective action. The aim is to ensure that by 2000 all eligible countries will have embarked on the process of securing debt relief, and that at least three-quarters will have firm decisions on their debt taken by then.

Building a consensus among creditor countries and institutions for more urgent action demands political will. The G8 summit provides the last realistic opportunity to authorise more effective and generous action to take effect by the millennium. A start has already been made with the HIPC initiative. What is needed now is for the leaders of the richest countries to walk the extra mile.

As a churchman, I have become involved because this is a moral issue. Unpayable debt has become directly linked with terrible suffering.

### Reducing debt has profound theological significance

Church leaders in Africa hear the cry of the desperately poor, and appeal to us in the developed world to be advocates for the voiceless. For Christians there is an added dimension. We regard the millennium as a jubilee, and the prospect of reducing the burden of debt has a profound theological resonance. In the Hebrew Bible the jubilee fell every 50 years. It was a time of emancipation and renewal, when slaves would be freed, land restored and debts forgiven. In his call to the Catholic Church to prepare for the millennium, the Pope highlighted the opportunity for "reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the debt which threatens the future of many nations".

This appeal has been taken up in many countries, and there will be a strong Christian presence in Birmingham. At the same time, the desire to help the poorest people of the world to step over the threshold of the new millennium free from the debt burden they carry is an inspiring one, which has captivated many people of all faiths and none.

We should not be naive about what can be achieved. Nor should we forget that providing more generous debt relief is only a precondition of tackling global poverty. The G8 leaders are already committed to the ambitious target of halving global poverty by 2015. The best way of demonstrating the seriousness of this commitment will be to eradicate the unpayable debt problem once and for all. Then we can all get on with the rest of the anti-poverty agenda. And if we could all contribute to making effective debt relief a reality by the millennium, it would give us all something truly worth celebrating.

The author is the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.



# Less of your sauce, please

## Standardised recipes do not work in cuisine — or in society either

This week 500 German academics are appealing to the German Constitutional Court against the proposed standardisation of the German language. We sometimes think of Germany as the home country of state regulation, but the tradition of German bureaucracy has itself produced a strong German reaction. The language issue is not a new one. In the period after German unification in 1871, there was concern about the diversity of the German dialect. Under the Prussian state, a language standard was introduced, the Puttkamer Orthography.

After the First World War, the Austrian educationalist Rudolf Steiner criticised this state regulation of the language. "We have lost a great deal through this Puttkamer Orthography which would have been able to make us attentive today to certain intimacies in the German language." Apparently the Kaiser's Germany adopted a regulation that all inns which did not cater for foreign visitors, but expected only German guests, should be required to prepare a standardised sauce, which was known as the Imperial German National Sauce. Steiner regarded the standardisation of spelling as being as wrong-headed a violation of cultural freedom as the standardisation of a national sauce. Freedom blossoms in diversity.

In Britain we do not have a constitutional court, though equally we do not suffer the limitations of a written constitution. Yet we too have to defend ourselves against the pressure of state regulation to impose standardisation on our culture. Next week the House of Lords will be discussing proposed amendments to the School Standards and Framework Bill; it may be a useful Bill, but it is certainly a sinister title.

On Tuesday two amendments are likely to be reached which have the support of the Association of Steiner-Waldorf Schools. At present these schools are not accepted in the maintained sector, because they have their own curriculum. The amendments would incorporate schools "which may be maintained in the future" into the Bill, and would add the crucial words "and for the requirements of schools with a different character". I would have been supporting these amendments, but next Tuesday I shall be in Baltimore. A court case on the German language and a few words in a Bill

before the House of Lords may seem unimportant; the coincidence that Rudolf Steiner had views about the language issue and that his educational followers have views about the curriculum in English schools may not help — many people discount Steiner's ideas as too cranky for them. Yet the issue of pluralism lies at the root of liberal democracy. What did Thomas Jefferson mean when he put that key phrase "The pursuit of happiness" into the American Declaration of Independence?

Jefferson did not mean that the United States should follow a life of hedonistic excitement. That is not happiness. He took the phrase from John Locke, the great English philosopher of liberalism. Locke was arguing that people can choose differently, and yet all choose rightly. In religion, he argued for tolerance; in culture, he argued for differences of taste and temperament.

Enforced conformity is particularly dangerous in education, because universal free education, provided by the State, gives a state overwhelming power to impose its own standards, which are bound to be determined by its own interests. The modern state has very little spiritual content; in essence, it is a reductionist machine for achieving material objectives. Like most such machines, it is rather bad at its limited job.

I am not myself a disciple of Steiner, any more than I am a Tibetan Buddhist, but both Steiner's educational theories and Tibetan Buddhism seem to me to have truth in them. My interest was aroused because my eldest granddaughter, Maud, has been sent to the Meadow School in Bruton, a new Steiner school. She is very happy there; I believe it is working well for her. She went for a time to Bruton Primary School, which is an excellent state primary, much praised by Ofsted, with many satisfied parents. That suited her less well, and she was less happy. Good schools can be good in different ways. Children are very different, and benefit from different

systems. In a diverse educational structure, one can compare the best with the best.

Steiner himself was much influenced by Goethe, deriving from him an educational theory which is based on spiritual and aesthetic elements and includes an element of play. He wrote of Goethe's teaching: "To spend time unravelling logical thought without an anchor in the true life and creativity of nature, appears to him to be fruitless... man must not stand in a corner and believe that he can spin a structure of ideas by himself which will have anything to say on the essence of things." Steiner was also influenced by Schiller's *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*, with its doctrine that "man is only wholly man, when at play".

William Rees-Mogg

Any system of education which is concerned with the standardisation of results is likely to be disconcerted by doctrines which emphasise play, imagination, avoiding premature pressure to learn, and acceptance of a natural unfolding of development. Modern ministers want results. They tend to think that all children should be able to read at five, write at six, multiply at seven, speak French at eight, speak German at nine and have mastered quantum physics at ten. The children can then become computer programmers for the rest of their lives. That is the sort of education which is shaped by the material values of a national bureaucracy. Of course, there is some truth in looking at things that way; to enthusiasts for standardisation the Steiner schools may seem subversive.

In fact, Steiner schools seem to work rather well, even by the current examination standard. They follow a different curriculum until the age of 14, one which is intended to stimulate the enjoyment of learning. In the early years, children are taught through art, movement, imitation and the imagination. Yet in 1996 the GCSE results in Steiner schools were significantly better than the national average for state and independent schools taken together. Some 77 per cent of Steiner pupils passed their

GCSE exams at grades A to C, against a national average of 54 per cent. Experience in other countries also shows that Steiner schools can operate with success alongside a national curriculum. Again, one should emphasise that the Steiner system does not suit all children equally well.

The Steiner schools are increasing in number, even though they are outside the state maintained system and have therefore to be fee-paying. The fees are usually low, and parents give an exceptional amount of time and energy to the schools. Few parents are rich; sending a child to a Steiner usually involves a financial sacrifice. The parents seem as a group to belong to the world of alternative politics; I suspect that many of them may have voted for the Green Party, some are Liberal Democrats, others were drawn to new Labour.

Although I believe in liberal pluralism, which connects to the Hayekian element in Thatcherite thinking, I think that rather few Steiner parents are Conservative voters. They are reacting to the feeling that our society, including our educational system, has lost contact with aesthetic and spiritual realities, a criticism which was widely made of the Thatcher administration in the 1980s. They are part of a much wider alternative reaction, which also includes health and social issues.

At the start of the last century there was a flowering of the genius of men such as Goethe, Schiller, Wordsworth, Shelley and Blake. They all shared the fear that the mechanistic age was closing in on the human spirit. Their fear of a reductionist scientism, imposed as an iron conformity, but with no profound understanding of nature or man, is again being expressed in many different ways at the end of the 20th century. Standardisation, regulation and bureaucracy are the political expression of the conformity that people resent. Varieties of culture need to be defended against ministries of culture; varieties of education need to be defended against ministries of education; varieties of care need to be defended against ministries of health. In all our countries the individual varieties of sauce need to be defended against the "imperial national sauce". Standardisation is the enemy of freedom.

# His goose isn't cooked

## Magnus Linklater on Cook's power base in Scotland

Robin Cook was in trouble. He had stepped out of line and contradicted his leader by predicting a landslide victory at the general election. With only weeks to go, it was considered a potentially damaging lapse, and the fringe meeting he was due to address at the Scottish Labour Party conference was packed. He arrived late, carrying some sort of haversack with his lunch in it, and proceeded to charm the party workers by reminding them of when they had last met. His speech, delivered without notes, came with the lightness of touches. When, instead of avoiding the contentious issue, he made a joke out of it, he brought the house down. "That man," whispered someone, "could walk on water."

These days, the Foreign Secretary seems more likely to fall into it than glide across it. Far from performing miracles, he badly needs one. And yet, talking yesterday to friends and colleagues in Scotland, it was remarkable how many still spoke of him with respect and predicted that he would survive unscathed from this latest debacle. For a politician who has spent little time shoring up support within his party, who is, by common consent, "not a team player", and who is routinely described as arrogant and intolerant, he can, apparently, still draw on a deep well of admiration and even affection north of the border. The views I heard could hardly have been more different from those that currently inform most of the headlines and leader columns in the aftermath of the Sierra Leone affair. It says something about the way in which Scottish perspectives differ from those in Westminster that at least one MP spoke of him as a future leader.

The explanation lies partly in his qualities as a quick thinker and a brilliant orator — skills which were clearly on display in the Commons on Tuesday. He is probably the cleverest Scottish member of Cabinet, and he is missed in Scotland, where the Scottish Nationalists are currently running ahead of Labour. A man of Mr Cook's calibre is just what is needed to take on the SNP leader Alex Salmond, whose own debating style is very similar, and who will be a formidable opponent in the run-up to next year's elections. Mr Cook is, of course, no longer available. There was a time when he contemplated serving in a Scottish parliament, but the moment has passed, the lists are closed, and he will not now be Scotland's first First Minister.

That does not, however, mean that he has no future in Scotland. Scottish MPs seem not to be unduly disturbed by his so-called gaffes. They mind about his behaviour towards his former wife, and the way in which he ended his marriage, but they seem to think his handling of events in India, in Israel, and now over Sierra Leone, say more about the Foreign Office than they do about him. At least one of those I spoke to believed firmly that Mr Cook had been stiched up because he had taken on a "dinosaur" Foreign Office. They claim that his "ethical policy", which went down well in Scotland, and was associated with Mr Cook as a recognised politician of the Left, was nevertheless anathema to his officials, and that what has happened is his "revenge". They also believe that he is telling the truth — a view that is not confined to his own party. Both the Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell, and the Tory Sir Malcolm Rifkind, who of course know him well, used the word "honourable" to describe him. They thought it was hardly credible that Mr Cook should have lied; he was not that kind of man, though they were highly critical of the way he had handled the affair.

But perhaps the most intriguing undercurrent of the whole affair concerns not so much Robin Cook as Gordon Brown. The two are famously at odds. Despite a recent rapprochement, no one doubts that no love is lost between them, and they remain key figures in Scottish mythology. Mr Cook is the man of the Left, still honoured by "old Labour", remembered as one of those who marched against Polaris, anti-devolution in the days when that was fairly common on the Left. Many of his friends are still of that persuasion. He is hugely popular in his Livingston constituency. Mr Brown, on the other hand, is the man who, as Chancellor, has brought the politics of new Labour to Scotland, tied down public spending, and left local authorities strapped for cash. He is seen as Scotland's "Governor", and not necessarily the more popular for that. If the Nationalists win a majority of seats in the new Scottish parliament, Mr Brown, with his rigid economic policy and his close association with Tony Blair, will carry much of the blame. Mr Cook will escape all that. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that there should be a groundswell of sympathy for Mr Cook, and that his present travails, far from blighting his prospects should he ever contemplate returning to Scotland, may actually help him. "In five years' time, after the first term of a Scottish parliament... who knows?" said one party observer enigmatically. You may have thought this story was all about Sierra Leone. Actually, it's a lot about Livingston as well.

# Late tackle

TOM PENDRY, the man Tony Blair passed over as Sports Minister, continues to try to irritate Tony Banks. The Labour MP, who had been the party's Shadow sports spokesman up to the election, got himself elected as chairman of a parliamentary group. Aside from a deluge of free tickets to major sporting events, Pendry's new job heading the all-party Sports Group will provide him with a power base from which he could harry Banks and present himself as an alternative Sports Minister.

Pendry's latest role is the second feather in his cap. Last winner, the chairmanship of the Football Trust, with £5 million in lottery money to distribute, landed in his lap as a consolation prize from the Prime Minister.

"The parliamentary group will be independent from the Government," says Pendry. "We have the opportunity to meet sports representatives and discuss any government legislation affecting them. Ministers can come and talk to us and I hope Tony Banks will be invited. There is a very exciting programme ahead of us."

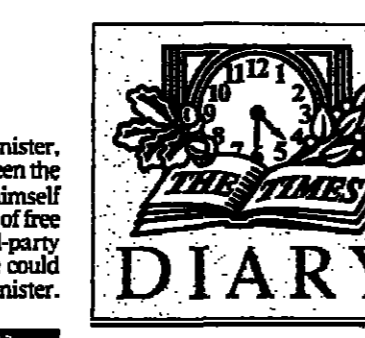
Pendry's desire to become a player in the sporting world can be gauged by the bitterness expressed by the supporters of his rival in the election for the parliamentary post. "He was supported by Labour peers we hadn't seen before," moaned one Labour MP. "The door opened and half a dozen ancient peers who must have last



Offside trap: Pendry, Banks

seen competition at the 1924 Olympics shuffled in. I look forward to the next lively round.

● PRINCE WILLIAM has lost the chance of female company at Eton. A little-known tradition at the college allows the daughters of masters to join the sixth form. But I gather the first candidate since 1984 has been rejected. "Any girl who now came would be one among a full sixth-form year of over 250," says John Lewis, the



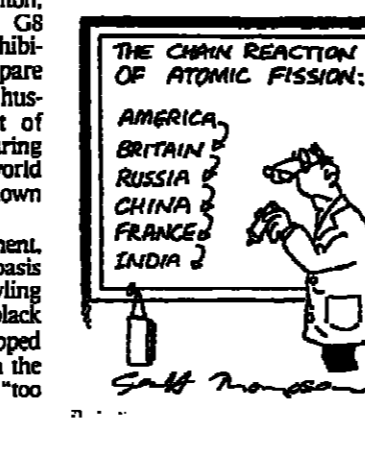
Head Master. With his female fanclub growing by the week, the last thing William needs is feminine distractions in class.

## Censored

PLANS to take Hillary Clinton, Cherie Blair and the other G8 wives to a contemporary art exhibition have been abandoned to spare the women's blushes. As their husbands indulge in a spot of summery in Birmingham during the weekend, the wives of the world leaders were due to be shown around the Ikon Gallery. The £5 million establishment, which has just opened, is an oasis of the avant-garde in the sprawling city. But when some men in black from the Foreign Office dropped by, they cancelled the visit on the grounds that the gallery was "too

saucy". The writing petals had encountered *Let the Priests Tremble*, a show by Nancy Spero, a 73-year-old American feminist, who "uses powerful, fetishistic images of women to celebrate female sexuality". Hardly an example, I suggest, of Cool Britannia.

● ALL good things come to he who waits. I am delighted to announce the consecration of the Archbishop Philippos as the first Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church. The splendid event took place in Cairo and the honours were carried out by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, Patriarch of Alexandria. Archbishop Philippos has certainly earned his spurs, spending many years as an abbot and playing a vigorous part in Eritrea's drive for



independence from Ethiopia in 1991. The Archbishop is 93.

## Allez Ken

KENNETH BAKER is making a special bid to worsen Anglo-French relations. The former Education Minister is penning a tome about the scrubs France has inflicted on Britain. With plenty of material available, the book will take a broad historical sweep. It will start with the Dauphin's mocking gift of tennis balls to Henry V and pass on to the extraordinary suggestion of Edith Cresson, the former French PM, that all Englishmen are homosexuals. Baker suspects the World Cup will further extend the list. A working title for the book is *Vive la difference*.

● LORD TEBBIT recently urged the Government: "When questions are capable of being answered by either yes or no, they will make it their practice so to answer them." Lord McIntosh of Haringey replied: "No. Such a rule could result in misleading answers."

## On target

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW is as timely today as he ever was. This evening sees the first night



GBS: deadily accurate

of Sir Peter Hall's new production of *Major Barbara*. Shaw's morality play about arms dealing, starring Peter Bowles and Gemma Redgrave. As the Foreign Secretary continues to brazen out the "arms-to-Africa" saga, he might well ponder one of Shaw's lines: "The way of life lies through the factory of death."

● RONALDO may be the finest ballsmith in the world, but his fame does not seem to be universal. When Pope John Paul II met him this week, he inquired: "And what do you do?" EDWARD WELSH

# REMAKING

Britain has inescapably become a remaking of itself. The sulphurous fumes of the industrial revolution have been replaced by the fumes of a new industrial revolution. The world is being remade, and Britain is no exception. The old is being replaced by the new, and the new is being remade. The world is a constant state of flux, and Britain is no exception. The old is being replaced by the new, and the new is being remade. The world is a constant state of flux, and Britain is no exception.

لنا من الاصل





# INDIA'S BIG BANG

The world will have to respond with more than a whimper

For 24 years, India has heeded international pressure not to convert its "peaceful" nuclear test of 1974 into formal nuclear power status, while berating the existing nuclear powers for "nuclear apartheid".

The non-proliferation battle in South Asia had thus been only partially contained before India crossed the nuclear Rubicon this week.

Three factors may have prompted India's dramatic decision. One is the pressure it has been under to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would have meant permanently foreclosing the nuclear option.

Tomorrow, Britain plays host to the G8 summit of the leading industrialised powers. President Clinton, who rapidly imposed the economic sanctions required by the US non-proliferation law of 1994, will arrive

expecting support. He will look to Britain, as host and as reliable ally. He seems likely to be disappointed. The word from Whitehall is that this is all deeply disturbing, but that Britain's plan is to concert with its European Union partners before doing anything.

Some hesitation is understandable. India has not, after all, broken any nuclear treaties, because it has not signed any. But to rely on "quiet diplomacy" is pathetic. A nuclear-armed India would be a clear and present threat to Asian security.

There may be no case for disrupting normal trade. India is not a rogue state. But India has no "right" to development aid, export credit guarantees or government loans. Japan is considering the suspension of its yen loans, worth \$1 billion.

## FAIL IN LOGIC

Student protesters are wasting their time

Thirty summers ago students took to the streets to protest against the war in Vietnam. Yesterday they marched to protest against this Government's assault on their pockets.

The massive expansion in student numbers under the last Government placed a considerable strain on the education budget. Potential undergraduates expected a degree to enhance their future earning potential.

In order to ensure that universities received the resources they needed, without distorting the balance of educational spending overall, students had pay a more realistic proportion of the costs.

## REMAKING MONTSERAT

Britain has inescapable responsibilities

The sulphurous fumes and poisonous ash that have devastated Montserrat for the past three years have corroded not only the homes and livelihoods of its once prosperous people but the moral commitment and commercial backbone of those financial institutions on which any society depends.

Some of this bitterness has been vented against Britain, particularly those officials and ministers who have irresponsibly forecast a cataclysmic explosion and hastened the commercial panic.

its defence, the Government cannot satisfy all these frustrated demands. It can advise, with whatever sober scientific responsibility is available, on the volcano's likely activity, but it cannot predict it.

The volcano has already cost Britain some £52 million in emergency aid, with a further commitment of £9 million. Tony Abbott, the Governor, is energetic and decisive and has done what he can for the island, earning greater popularity than his predecessor.

## India's poor 'pay for nuclear tests'

From Mr Brian Cloughley

Sir, In *The Times* of India on May 12 there were several pieces lauding India's nuclear test explosions. The headline that took my eye, however, was "Meerut cries out for basic amenities".

It is time India readjusted its priorities. Yours faithfully, BRIAN CLOUGHLEY, Kirkcaldy, Burnsands, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire DG3 4AL. becculf@aol.com May 12.

From Mr Melynn Crabb

Sir, 1. India conducted three nuclear tests on May 11. 2. Nuclear tests are expensive. 3. Last year, British taxpayers gave India £92 million in aid (report, May 13).

Yours faithfully, MELVYN CRABB, 49 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Forestdale, Croydon CR0 9HB. May 13.

## Sierra Leone

From Dr T. N. Harlow

Sir, In the Sandline/arms to Sierra Leone affair it seems to me that much good was done for minimal human or material cost.

This is exactly the sort of thing I expect any government I elect to be doing. Well done.

Yours faithfully, TIM HARLOW, Whitley House, Bradninch, Exeter, Devon EX5 4LA. May 12.

From Mr Christopher Murray

Sir, Eccentricity is truly British (leading article, "Doty Britannia", May 13). What better example than that we observe the United Nations' demands to reinstate the legitimate democratic Government of Sierra Leone and then immolate ourselves for apparently having done so.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER MURRAY, Kingsley Napley (solicitors), Knights Quarter, 14 St John's Lane, EC1M 4AJ. May 13.

## Supervising solicitors

From Mr Paul Pharaoh

Sir, Martin Mears ("A flood of new excuses", Law, May 5) suggests that the recent flooding of his headquarters will provide the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors with "a new alibi" for delays in handling cases.

In March 1997, over 50 per cent of its cases were more than one year old. By March 1998, that had been reduced to less than 15 per cent. All but the most serious cases, where lengthy investigation may be essential, are now being processed more swiftly by a slimmed-down procedure.

As editor of the OSS's *Client Care Guide*, Mr Mears wrote in May 1997: "The starting point is the recognition that every complaint is a failure for the firm involved." I couldn't agree more.

Yours faithfully, PAUL PHARAOH (Chairman, Compliance and Supervision Committee), The Law Society, 115 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PL. May 8.

## Growth stunted

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, Mr Anatole Kaletsky describes America's current virtuous circle of rising prosperity, employment and social wellbeing (article, "As good as Wall Street ever gets", May 5).

We will, sadly, probably never know whether it could be repeated here because, whenever our economic growth rate picks up above about 2.5 per cent, our Monetary Policy Committee, fixated on inflation at the Government's behest and, unlike the US Federal Reserve, with no brief to aim for high employment or growth, applies the brakes.

Yours etc, ADRIAN COSKER (Head of Economics), The Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6DZ. May 5.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Israel's security on the West Bank

From Mr Ralph Blumeau

Sir, I am very critical of most of the policies of the present Israeli Government, not least of those towards the Arab populations and the settlements. But Tim Haines' report ("Israel digs in heels on vital areas", May 9) at long last enables your readers to understand that Mr Netanyahu's present stance over the pullback from areas of the West Bank is completely reasonable.

What are the considerations that have made the US Government pressure Israel to jeopardise its security by withdrawing from the additional 4 per cent of the West Bank? Although it has so far refrained from officially publishing its proposals, it is well known what these are. For all we know, Mrs Albright may also be exerting pressure on the Palestinians to amend the PLO Covenant; but if so, no publicity whatever is given to that. One wonders why.

While the Covenant remains unamended, the PLO proclaims itself an enemy of Israel, and not as a partner in peace. Under those circumstances every concession that the Israelis are pressured to make will weaken them in the next stage of the negotiations. This has already happened in the past; and the present proposal that they withdraw from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank would do the same for the next stage.

This was the fundamental flaw in the Oslo agreements from the start; and Mr Netanyahu is right to propose that it is time now to proceed rapidly to final-status negotiations.

Before any further concessions are made, the Israelis need now to feel sure that a genuine peace is attainable at the end of the process, and on what terms. Perhaps an agreement on Jerusalem is possible, though it is more likely that it is not. If it is not, there will be no peace; and if there is no peace, then Israel cannot weaken herself further.

Certainly it cannot now hand over

territory which would enable the Palestinians in turn off Jerusalem's water supply and to make the international airport unusable if they do not get their way; nor can Israel be expected to negotiate a Jerusalem settlement under such duress.

Yours faithfully, RALPH BLUMENAU, 111 Princes House, 50 Kensington Park Road, London W11 3BW. May 9.

From Mr A. S. Khalidi

Sir, While Israel's security concerns need to be addressed, its security cannot be ensured at the expense of Palestinian rights.

There is no reason to accord Israeli demands regarding use of the West Bank aquifers the security of Tel Aviv airport or control over access across the Jordan river any superior political or moral status to that of the right of the Palestinians to freedom from occupation and a national home of their own. Israeli security will be enhanced not by the annexation of more Palestinian territory but by a mutually acceptable political solution that ends the conflict with a modicum of justice for both sides.

The real problem is that Mr Netanyahu does not believe in mutuality and equal rights, but rather in the indefinite confinement of the Palestinians to statelessness in no more than 10 per cent of their historic homeland. He is thus condemning both sides to perpetual conflict and confrontation.

It is this vision that poses a serious threat to Israel's long-term security; not the squabble over a few percentage points in the current negotiations on redeployment.

Yours sincerely, AHMAD SAMIH KHALIDI (Senior Associate Member, St Antony's College, Oxford), 6 Barby Road, W10 6AR. May 9.

## Human Rights Bill

From the Reverend D. R. J. Holloway

Sir, In discussing our own Human Rights Bill we should note, in the year of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that this original declaration was concerned to protect the concept of universal rights from misuse. It stressed religion, education and morality as in need of special protection.

Article 18 says that "Everyone has the right... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." Article 26 says that "Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children." Article 29 says there can be "limitations" on individual rights and freedoms "for the purpose... of meeting the just requirements of morality".

Mr K. Porteous Wood (letter, April 29) therefore should not criticise the

Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lords for wanting to ensure the protection of religious liberties, affecting as they do not only church affairs, but education and morality. They are simply wanting to make sure our own Human Rights Bill cannot be abused. This is following in the footsteps of the great Christian thinker, Jacques Maritain, and the lawyer, René Cassin — two of the key players behind the universal declaration.

Should the Government vote to overturn the protection for religious bodies passed by the House of Lords, the Lords must make efforts to reinstate it. Religious freedom is a serious constitutional issue. The Government should respect the wisdom of the Archbishop and the Lords.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOLLOWAY, 7 Otterburn Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AP. May 6.

## Bishop's suicide

From Professor Ian Markham

Sir, Much as I share the sentiments of your leading article (May 11) on Christians in Pakistan, it is, nevertheless, entirely inappropriate to describe the Bishop ofaisalabad's suicide as "within a Christian tradition of ultimate sacrifice".

The Christian tradition is virtually unanimous in considering suicide a sin. No one is entitled to take their own life. The Pakistani authorities ought not to take the life of Ayub Masih and the Bishop should not have killed himself.

Sincerely, IAN MARKHAM (Liverpool Professor of Theology and Public Life), Liverpool Hope University, College, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD. May 12.

## Global warming

From Dr Ute Collier

Sir, Dr Thomas Gale Moore, the US economist who argues in his latest book that global warming is "a broadly positive phenomenon" (report, May 12), appears to be oblivious to the real threat of more extreme weather events.

The economic costs associated with increased floods, storms and droughts have already quadrupled over the past 30 years; increased drought would also largely negate any positive benefits on some crops which might result from the increased concentration of carbon dioxide.

The costs of climate change are potentially enormous and the economic benefits of more efficient energy and transport systems have been widely demonstrated.

Inaccurate claims such as those made by Dr Moore are a welcome distraction for the many vested interests who refuse to acknowledge that action is needed and of broad benefit: his book does not deserve the attention you gave it.

Yours etc, UTE COLLIER (Climate Change Policy Officer), WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR. May 12.

From Mrs S. J. Culbert

Sir, Your leader comment that the Bishop ofaisalabad "acted within a Christian tradition of ultimate sacrifice" when he shot himself in protest against Pakistan's discriminatory blasphemy laws, seems highly questionable.

There is a clear distinction between Christian martyrdom and the deliberate taking of one's own life. To stand against persecution and injustice is admirable, but to kill oneself is not. John's suicide represents despair and futility rather than redemptive hope.

In this tragic act of violence against himself he deprives his people of a leader at a critical time.

Sincerely, SUSAN J. CULBERT, 88 Staunton Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7TR. culberts@aoil.com May 12.

## South Downs status

From the Chairman of West Sussex County Council

Sir, Roger Bush (letter, May 2) and the Countryside Commission have got it right: the South Downs need special measures for their protection rather than an off-the-peg National Park solution.

I would point out to Mr Des Turner, MP, and Mr David Lepper, MP, who allege in the letter which you published alongside, that the Countryside Commission has "ignored public opinion" in this matter, that my county council is a democratic body representing 750,000 people in West Sussex. We firmly back the commission's advice that the Government should move quickly to establish a statutory conservation board for the South Downs, with the powers and funding to protect this much-loved landscape.

Yours etc, IAN ELLIOTT, Chairman, West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RQ. May 11.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Only two cheers for referendums

From Mr A. C. de Winton

Sir, Two cheers for the referendum for London mayor (reports, May 8). How on earth were the good voters of London supposed to make an informed choice if no attempt was made to provide them with any basic information on the proposal — such as why we need yet another layer of government and who will pay for it (the voters presumably). No information means no informed consent.

A referendum has beguiling democratic credentials. However, it can provide a cynical government an opportunity to manipulate public opinion. Take a government objective, put an attractive spin on it, call a referendum, suppress or obfuscate facts that do not support the proposal and — hey presto — the uninformed electorate comes up with a suitable democratic endorsement of the objective. Once the people have spoken then the government has a mandate to proceed.

There are further referendums in prospect. If these are to be meaningful we have a desperate need for some system to ensure dissemination to the electorate of at least some minimum information about the proposal under the auspices of some objective and independent body.

Yours faithfully, A. C. DE WINTON, 26 Cavaye Place, SW10 9PT. May 8.

From Mr Dennis Wesil

Sir, So far all public discussion on a mayor for London seems to have been in political and personal terms. What about the nuts and bolts? What will be the precise merit of the new chief and how, and to what body, will he be effectively accountable?

The mayor's actions will affect a huge slice of the nation's resources and the wellbeing of a large number of citizens. The vast concentration of power in one person that is now proposed demands checks and balances of which there is at present no sign.

I cannot see that periodic voting by a possibly bemused electorate will by itself provide adequate controls over a chief executive who can do great harm as well as good. And without impugning the integrity of any of the current potential candidates (although not, I fear, the relevant executive experience of most of them), one must consider the possibility that a future officeholder might exercise his or her powers in a highly undesirable, even unethical, way.

Should the Government vote to overturn the protection for religious bodies passed by the House of Lords, the Lords must make efforts to reinstate it. Religious freedom is a serious constitutional issue. The Government should respect the wisdom of the Archbishop and the Lords.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS WESIL, 2 Stoneleigh, Mariello Road South, Poole, Dorset BH13 7HQ. May 10.

## Yes or No

From Mr John Dexter

Sir, Perhaps I can help with Gavin Littaur's confusion (letter, May 6). A Yes in the No box counts as a No because you're saying "Yes, I agree that the answer is No." Similarly, a No in the Yes box also means No because you're saying "No, I do not agree that the answer is Yes."

However, by a logical extension to this, a No in the No box would have to count as Yes, since it would mean "No, I do not think the answer is No."

Yours, JOHN DEXTER, 37 Carnoustie, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 5ZW.

From Mr Colin Riegels

Sir, I find the notion that people who cannot understand basic instructions to put a simple mark inside one box or another should have any say in the running of this country deeply disturbing.

Yours faithfully, COLIN RIEGELS, 1 Paper Buildings, EC4A 7EP. May 7.

## Lads and lasses

From Dr J. A. Medley

Sir, Surely the original and definitive answer to Dr Victoria Reese's question (letter, May 8) — which came first, "laddish" boorish behaviour from young men or assertive behaviour from women? — is given in the third chapter of *Genesis*.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MEDLEY, Artiscumbeligh, Mill Hill, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8NN. jartimed@virgin.net May 12.

## Never heard of him?

From Mr Stephen Gail

Sir, After 30 years of calling registers in secondary schools, I am frequently amused by some of the "famous" names on the roll. Parents with a poor knowledge of history (letter, May 5) could be forgiven, but I cannot understand why Mr and Mrs Sprout called their offspring Russell, as appeared in one of my lists some years ago. However, my all-time favourite goes to a pupil in one of my geography classes in the Seventies: Jacqueline Hyde. Sorry Jacqueline!

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN GAIL, 127 Crookston Road, SE9 1YF. May 5.











NEWS

Pakistan prepares nuclear test

Pakistan is expected to set off a nuclear explosion within the next few days in retaliation for India's double set of nuclear tests this week.

In a further escalation of the arms race on the sub-continent, India is preparing to arm nuclear missiles — in spite of world condemnation of its test programme and the threat of international sanctions.

Tobacco supporters 'wrote for Lancel'

Covert supporters of the Philip Morris tobacco company made contributions to The Lancel and advised a Commons committee to blunt criticism of passive smoking codenamed "Project Whitecoat".

Blair's Ulster move

Tony Blair is considering new moves to reassure Unionists that the release of republican prisoners will be linked to IRA disarmament.

Hi-tech crime hotline

A 24-hour international hot-line to help police forces across the world combat hi-tech crime is expected to be approved by world leaders this weekend.

West cousin charged

A cousin of Frederick West, the serial killer, went on trial yesterday charged with raping and sexually assaulting a series of teenage girls.

Editors warned

Newspaper editors were warned by the Press Complaints Commission chairman yesterday not to incite violence or xenophobia in World Cup coverage.

World Cup alert

The discovery of a bomb on a Paris pavement and arrests of eight suspected Islamic militants in London have heightened fears of a terror campaign during the World Cup.

India celebrates

Rich India is celebrating its gas-crashing of the nuclear club. The poor are not at the party, but they will pay for it.

Balliol results slide

Balliol College, Oxford, has fallen from second to seventeenth in the annual table of the university's examination results.

Suharto returns

President Suharto was cutting short a visit to Cairo yesterday and flying home as mobs rampaged through Jakarta and other Indonesian cities in a renewed onslaught on his regime.

Classics in fashion

Jane Austen and Henry James remain firm favourites with Hollywood with Mansfield Park and The Golden Bowl next in line for filming.

Sierra Leone claim

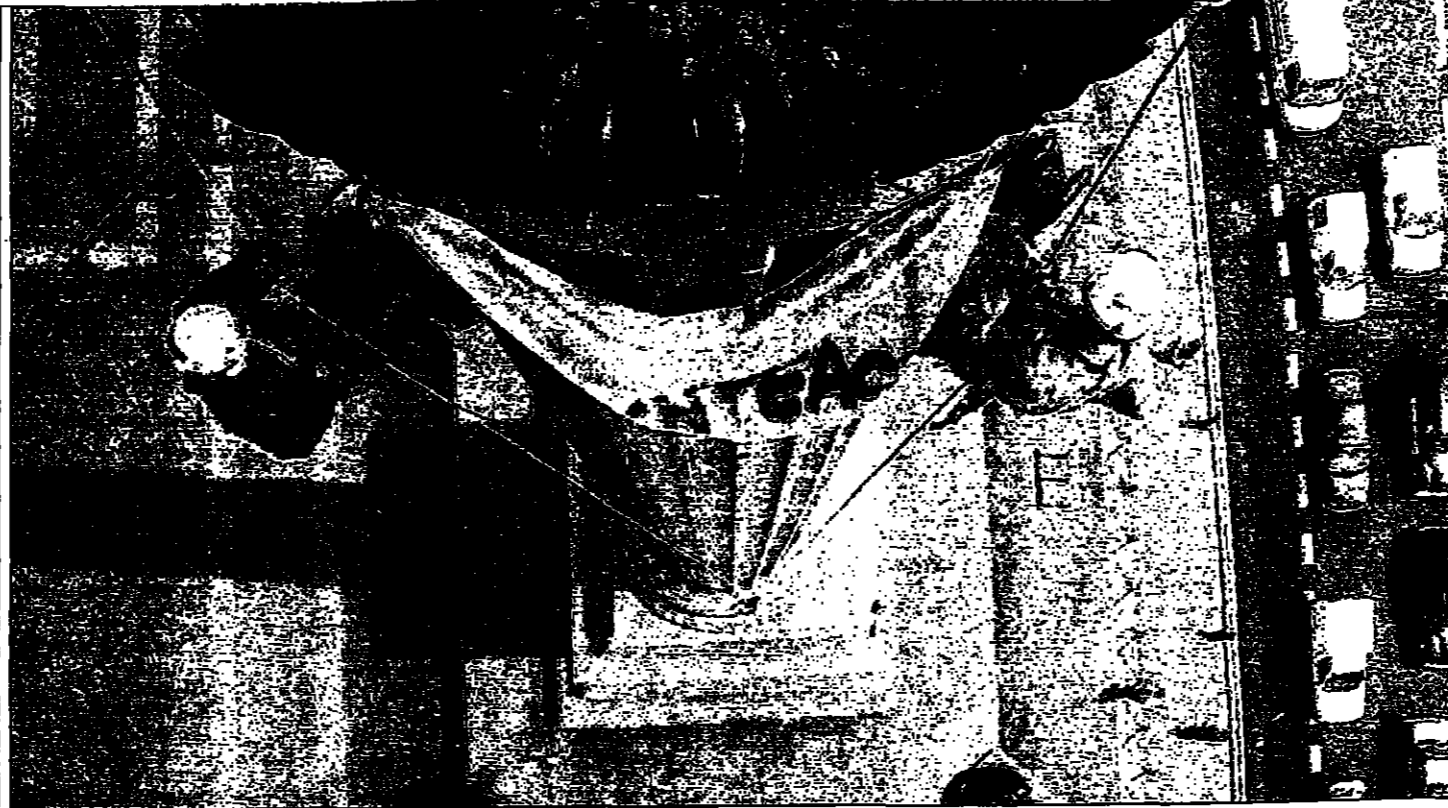
The imprisoned financier who played a key role in the Sierra Leone arms affair has issued a veiled threat to name more British officials who he says knew in advance of Sandline International's involvement.

'Minister for Victims'

A "minister for victims" was appointed yesterday after a report showed how thousands bereaved or injured in Northern Ireland have been neglected.

Police officers brought to book

The computer giant IBM and the police are going into partnership in a scheme to create the first national police university, offering the bobby on the beat the chance to gain a PhD.



Greenpeace activists on Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday protesting against logging in Canada

BUSINESS

Wages alarm: The Bank of England said wage inflation could force interest rates higher after data showed average earnings growth at a six-year high.

Benefits Agency threat: Private sector consultants have identified savings of £7 bn over 10 years in social security administration, including the loss of up to 20,000 jobs in the department.

In the bag: The two senior executives of Tetley Tea will share a £20 million stake when the company floats on the stock market later this year.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 16.2 to 5772.9. The pound fell 0.33 cents to \$1.6338 but rose 44 pips to DM2.9044. The pound index rose to 103.3 from 103.1.

SPORT

Football: There was no room for Ally McCoist or Stuart McCall in Scotland's squad for the World Cup. Eighteen of the 22 played in the qualifying matches.

Cricket: Devon Malcolm took six wickets for 54 runs as Northamptonshire dismissed Yorkshire, the early championship leaders.

Rugby union: There will be a gala air at Vicarage Road tonight, but Saracens will not lose sight of the League and Cup double when they take on Northampton.

Bowls: Mavis Steele, 70 in September and a runner-up in world championships, will next month appear for England in her fiercest consecutive home international series.

ARTS

Low Rent: London audiences at last have the chance to judge Broadway's cult musical Rent, which transports La Bohème to the New York drug world.

New movies: Robert Duvall and Morgan Freeman rush to save the earth from a comet in Deep Impact; Pedro Almodóvar serves up a juicy thriller in Live Flesh.

Mr Surreal: The Brighton Festival pays homage to Edward James. Thirties art patron and collector extraordinaire, with a show of his Dalis and Magrites and much, much more.

Big country: Forget pretty boys and girls in big hats and big hair — country music is turning its back on Nashville to take a walk down a grittier, murkier road.

FEATURES

Who's it: Vogue has dealt a blow to merely well-dressed women by naming the most stylish.

Bubbly tonic: A raucous night out with Chris Evans has not only restored Anthea Turner's self-esteem, but made her cool by association.

Health update: Dr Thomas Stunford discusses immune deficiency, sportsmen and smoking, the uses of cannabis, sunscreens and vitamin B6.

Art house: Isabel Carlisle on the history of the Tate.

Gel power: Ian McIntyre on the Duchess of Devonshire, mistress of Chatsworth in the 18th century, lover, gambler and political groupie.

Best buys: Garden visits in the Lake District; 20 per cent discounts on Italian villas and farmhouses; Egypt slowly returns to the package holiday scene.

Indonesia is in revolt. The immediate cause of Indonesian protest is economic, but the students' rage is really directed against a repressive regime which has been in power too long.

India's nuclear tests; Israel's security on West Bank; referendum doubts; Sierra Leone; Human Rights Bill; bishop's suicide; laudish behaviour.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA Do the spin-doctors now have newspapers in their pocket?

EDUCATION The Government's plans to link state and independent schools Plus the Good University Guide

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,791

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 26. The grid is partially filled with letters, and some cells are empty. The puzzle is set against a background of a grid pattern.

- ACROSS
1 Innocent, not cold, but in a bad state to marry (5).
4 A comic ran wildly around in burlesque style (9).
9 Earth always round this feature of London streets? (5,4).
10 Pensioner seen lying around it after retirement? (5).
11 A criminal record will ring true (5,10).
12 A little morsel taken by perch? (7).
14 Ruler bringing in a tester for poison, for example (7).
16 Demand to surrender and lay down arms? On the contrary (5,2).
19 Speaker's description of little bird (7).
21 Remove men from board to recover from disaster (4,2,3,6).
23 Measure European Community originally introduced (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20790
A crossword puzzle solution grid with numbers 1 through 26. The grid is filled with letters, and some cells are empty. The puzzle is set against a background of a grid pattern.

LEAKS: Road and Weather conditions

Table with 2 columns: Region and Conditions. Includes entries for UK Weather, Motorways, and various regions like London, Midlands, etc.

Weather by Fax

Table with 2 columns: City and Phone Number. Lists various cities and their corresponding phone numbers for weather reports.

World City Weather

Table with 2 columns: City and Weather. Lists major world cities and their current weather conditions.

Car reports by fax

Table with 2 columns: Car Model and Price. Lists various car models and their prices.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with 2 columns: Date and Hours. Shows the hours of darkness for various dates.

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

FORECAST

General: mist clearing to sunshine, warm except for coasts cooled by sea breezes. Isolated thundery showers will develop over southwest England, the Welsh mountains, Northern Ireland and perhaps northwest Scotland. Dry, cooler night everywhere.

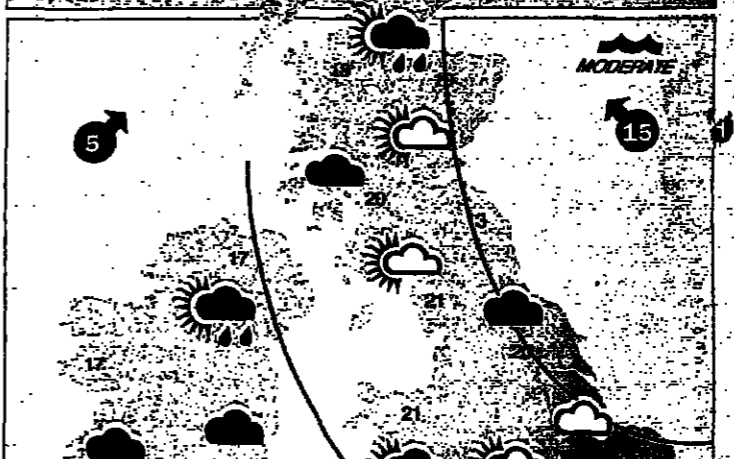
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with 3 columns: Location, Max, and Min. Shows weather data for various locations across Britain.

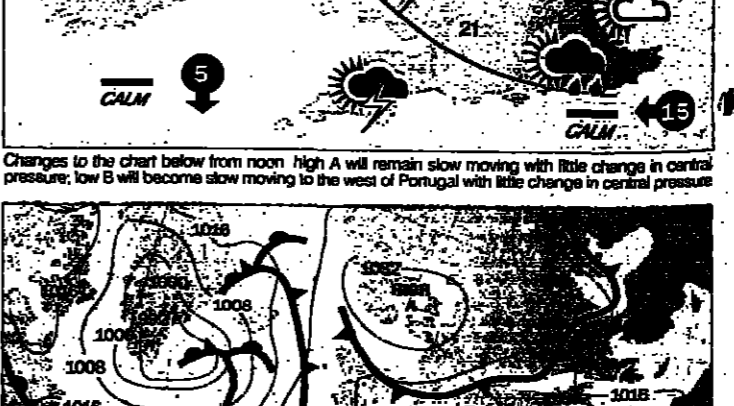
ABROAD

Table with 3 columns: Location, Max, and Min. Shows weather data for various international locations.

MOON PHASES



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A will remain slow moving with little change in central pressure; low B will become slow moving to the west of Portugal with little change in central pressure.



HIGH TIDES

Table with 3 columns: Location, Time, and Height. Shows high tide information for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southampton, 29C (84F); lowest day max: Far Isle, Shetland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Penzance, 1.30in; highest sunshine: Morecombe, 13.5h.

Advertisement for 'INSIDE SECTION' featuring '2 TODAY' and 'Wage' headlines. It includes a large '2 TODAY' graphic and a 'Wage' headline. Below this, there are several smaller advertisements, including one for 'Social security costs could be cut by £ over ten years' and another for 'Tetley tea fol for flotation'.

Advertisement for swissair+ featuring the slogan 'As early as 9 am we land you in Zurich, or 10:30 in Geneva. A total of 10 times a day from Heathrow. And by 9:40 and 8:45 pm respectively you're back. If that's what you want.' It includes the swissair+ logo and contact information.

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# THE TIMES

# 2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
Graham Searjeant on scares that haunt companies  
PAGE 31



**ARTS**  
Whiskeytown and Co say welcome to new country  
PAGES 36-39



**SPORT**  
Smoke signals that communicate conflicting message  
PAGES 45-52

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 14 1998

## Wage rises could force up rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday gave warning that wage inflation could force interest rates higher after new data showed average earnings growth close to a six-year high.

The annual growth in earnings jumped from 4.5 per cent to 4.9 per cent in February — the highest figure since December 1992. The rise was particularly marked in the private sector, where earnings increased by 5.6 per cent, compared with a rate of just 2.6 per cent in the public sector.

Further evidence of a tightening labour market came in the unemployment figures which showed claimant unemployment falling to 4.8 per cent — the lowest rate since 1980. The Government's preferred measure, the Labour Force Survey, also showed a marked fall to 1.86 million, or 6.4 per cent.

Mervyn King, Deputy Governor-elect of the Bank of England, insisted that it was vital that earnings growth slows if the Bank is to meet its 2.5 per cent inflation target. He said the gap between private and public sector earnings growth could not be regarded as "sustainable".

Mr King's comments came after the Bank of England published its quarterly *Inflation Report* which showed that it is on track to meet the inflation target over the next two years. The separate publication of the minutes of the April monetary meeting also had a dovish tone, confirming that Charles Goodhart had switched his vote against a rate rise that month. For the first time the committee discussed the possibility of a cut in rates, although no member gave firm backing for a downwards move.

However, the Bank immediately tacked a health warning on its report, saying that it still saw the risks to inflation as on "the upside." Mr King spelled out these risks in more detail claiming that the rise in average earnings, the introduction of the minimum wage and continuing strong consumer sector growth could force inflation off target. The Bank also emphasised that the recent decline in the value of the pound has altered some of the assumptions in the report.

The unexpectedly hawkish Bank comments, coupled with the average earnings data, rekindled City fears that there could be a further rate rise. The pound climbed more than one and half pence to DM2.9169 at one stage, before sliding in late trade to close at DM2.9044 from an opening price of DM2.9000. On its trade-weighted index, sterling rose from 103.1 to 103.3. UK and US interest rate fears also clouded trading on the stock market with the FTSE 100 closing up just 16.2 at 5972.9.

Analysts, however, said that earnings growth could slow again shortly, pointing to the high proportion of bonuses, which increased by about 30 per cent over last year, in the latest figures.

### SHARES AND CURRENCIES HIT AS INDOONESIAN UNREST SHAKES ASIAN MARKETS

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
AND RICHARD MILES

THE rising tide of violence in Indonesia cast a shadow across Asian markets yesterday.

Indonesian financial markets witnessed the civil unrest first hand as clashes between students and police, after the death of six protesters on Tuesday, spilled over into Jakarta's financial district.

The rupiah plunged 12 per cent to close at 10,400 to the dollar, with traders predicting that the currency is heading towards 12,000. The Jakarta stock exchange also slumped 6.61 per cent to 402.06.

Shares linked to the Suharto family suffered the heaviest losses. Other Asian markets again took fright at the problems in Indonesia with markets in Singapore and Malaysia falling by 5 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng suffered its largest decline for two months, sliding 372.22 to 9,469.29. The market was further depressed by rumours that the Hong Kong dollar is again coming under speculative attack.

Dealers said a number of hedge funds had taken large bets against the Chinese renminbi and the Hong Kong dollar, in a move that could ultimately undermine the peg with the US dollar. Some banks were reported to have postponed the issue of three-month futures contracts, fearing undue market volatility. Sa Qi, head of the Bank of China, insisted, however, that the Chinese currency was under no pressure to devalue.

The Hong Kong sell-off spread to London with Standard Chartered hardest hit, closing down 5 1/2p at 828 1/2p — a fall of almost 6 per cent — making it the day's worst performer among FTSE-100 companies. HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, fell 3 1/2p to £16.98.

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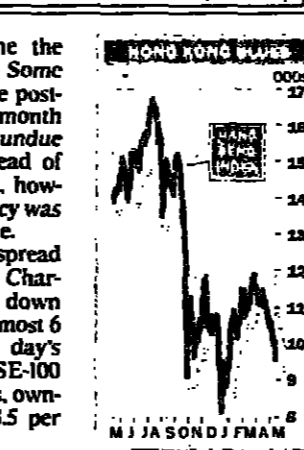
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Commentary, page 29

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5972.9 (+18.2)
FTSE All share	2827.00 (+6.91)
Nikkei	15343.81 (+21.33)
New York	
Dow Jones	9204.82 (+42.85)
S&P Composite	1118.83 (+3.04)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	102 3/4%	(102 3/4%)
Yield	5.98%	(5.97%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	108 1/2%	(108 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6307	(1.6325)
London	1.6340	(1.6342)
DM	2.9048	(2.9022)
FF	9.7384	(9.7251)
SFF	2.4150	(2.4205)
Yen	219.02	(218.71)
£ index	103.3	(103.1)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7780	(1.7787)
DM	5.9630	(5.9580)
SFF	1.4807	(1.4807)
Yen	134.15	(133.53)
£ index	110.10	(108.7)

Tokyo close Yen 134.12

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$14.85	(n/a)
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GOLD

London close	\$298.75	(\$298.65)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Social security costs could be cut by £7bn over ten years

By JASON NISSE

THE cost of running Britain's social security system could be cut by as much as £7 billion over ten years, according to consultants' reports commissioned by Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State.

The savings could lead to as many as 20,000 job cuts and would prompt a political storm if adopted. However, the savings equate to nearly one-third of the £2.4 billion annual cost of running the Benefits Agency, the Government department that hands out £88 billion of social security benefits each year.

Three teams of consultants — led by the computer groups EDS, Sema and Capita — have been working for the Benefits Agency since last August on a project called Adapt. The three have been shadowing regional benefit offices and have been asked to identify possible improvements in efficiency.

Proposals for cost savings are already being considered by the Benefits Agency. One scheme, proposed by the EDS consortium which includes AT Kearney, Price Waterhouse and Manpower, proposes a

workflow system, streamlining the way payments are delivered.

Senior EDS executives say that this could involve 60,000 staff being transferred out of the Benefits Agency and, according to an internal report leaked to the trade magazine *Computer Weekly*, up to 20,000 of those could be surplus to requirements. John Staples, a strategist at EDS, has said these people could be freed "to work on the active benefit side", combating frauds and improving the accuracy of benefits payments.

The Benefits Agency said the reports are due to be considered by Ms Harman in August.

The Department of Social Security has already seen one big change this year, when it was announced that the Contributions Agency — which collects national insurance — would merge with the Inland Revenue. The Revenue already has a £1.6 billion outsourcing deal with EDS, the largest of its kind agreed by a Government department.

Harman's Change, page 28



Mask ball: union leaders joined forces with environmentalists yesterday to mount a wide-ranging protest at the annual meeting of Rio Tinto, the mining group, distributing a mock shareholders' report titled *Rio Tinto - Tainted Titan*. Report, page 32

## SB pulls out of Vanguard drug

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Vanguard Medicus collapsed by more than 25 per cent yesterday when it announced that SmithKline Beecham was pulling out as the marketing partner for the migraine drug that is Vanguard's lead product.

Less than two months ago, SmithKline Beecham's annual report listed Vanguard's frovatriptan compound as one of four late-stage development projects that showed "particular promise". However, the larger pharmaceuticals group has decided to concentrate its resources on other drugs.

Frovatriptan already faces tough competition from Glaxo Wellcome's Imigran, the market leader, and Zeneca's Zornig. Migraine drugs are

also planned by Glaxo Wellcome, Pfizer and Merck. Vanguard recognises that its drug will need substantial marketing and sales force support if it is to achieve sales forecasts of £180 million a year.

Shares in Vanguard fell from 59p to 43 1/2p. The Guildford company still hopes to launch the drug around the end of next year, and has had preliminary talks with alternative marketing partners.

Vanguard's founders included Sir John Vane, who won the Nobel prize for work on aspirin, Sir David Jack, who developed Zantac for Glaxo, and William Duncan, responsible for developing Tagamet at SmithKline & French.

Commentary, page 29

### Microsoft suit

Microsoft faces a new legal challenge from San Microsystems ahead of tomorrow's launch of Windows 98, its new operating system. Page 28

### C&W's US plan

Cable & Wireless, which announced annual pre-tax profits up to £1.6 billion from £1.4 billion, said it is prepared to expand its US operations in the light of the consolidation of the US telecoms industry. Page 29, Tempus 30

## Tetley tea folk in line for flotation fortune

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Tetley tea folk will become seriously rich this summer when their company is floated on the London Stock Exchange.

Leon Allen, chairman and chief executive, and Roger Price, finance director, who together led a buyout from Allied Domecq in 1995, own 8 per cent of the company. Their stake will be worth about £20 million when Tetley, which makes Tetley, Quickbrew and Lyons teas, goes to market.

The group is expected to be valued at least £400 million, but it will need to pay off debts of about £120 million. Mr

Price said he and Mr Allen will sell some shares, although they have yet to decide how many. Some 250 members of management and employees own 22 per cent of the group.

Tetley also makes coffee and has a large international business. It is best known, however, for its Tetley tea, which it has relaunched in recent years in round bags and bags with drawstrings, advertised by the cartoon tea folk. The round bag launch in 1991 gave Tetley UK market leadership.

Operating profit before exceptional restructuring items in the year to March 7 was £41.1 million on turnover of £335.8 million.

## Safeway sales soar on triple points scheme

By FRASER NELSON

SAFEWAY disclosed the first fruits of its £20 million bonus points campaign yesterday by reporting underlying sales growth of 6 per cent in the six weeks over Easter — its highest rate for more than a year.

The shares rose 12 1/2p to 376p as the City was relieved the underlying profits were in line with the £375 million the company had forecast in February. Profits in the previous year were £460 million.

The company said its "triple points" scheme on its ABC cards was delivering encouraging results. Colin Smith, the chief executive, said they had

ironed out supply chain problems which reduced sales growth to 0.8 per cent over August.

Analysts said Safeway is "buying" sales growth with generous discounting. Paul Smiddy, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: "They are faced with the problem of trying to make a more permanent change than slapping a band aid over the business."

After £30 million spent cutting staff at head office and closing unprofitable stores, earnings fell to 22.1p (26.8p) a share. The dividend remains 9.7p with a final 4.4p.

Commentary, page 29  
Long road, page 31

## Flawed SFO raids to cost £322,000

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH taxpayers face a bill estimated at more than £322,000 as a direct result of a series of "seriously flawed" raids carried out by American authorities by the Serious Fraud Office.

The High Court has ordered the SFO and Home Office to pay £47,500 damages, thought

to be the largest agreed in such a case, and costs estimated at more than £275,000. The case stems from SFO errors in obtaining search warrants for raids on homes and safe deposit boxes. The SFO made errors of fact in its presentation to the issuing magistrate.

An agreement on damages was reached shortly before the court hearing, and endorsed

by the court. The UK taxpayer will ultimately pick up the bill.

Rosalind Wright, the SFO director, is reviewing internal procedures. This will have a bearing on the SFO's increasing work with overseas authorities. In the High Court last month, Lord Justice Pill, sitting with Mr Justice Gage, said the SFO's conduct in obtaining search warrants to help

authorities in America was "seriously flawed" and "fell far below what must be expected when this very serious interference with the liberty of the subject is contemplated".

The judge quashed the warrants, clearing the way for the damages action against the SFO. Yesterday he endorsed the agreed settlement.

The case dates to September

1997, when the SFO obtained warrants for a series of raids. Chris Dickson, the senior assistant SFO director who led the operation, saw his reasoning called into question, but was not held to have misled the magistrate. He is now senior counsel to the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, which investigates issues relating to the accountancy profession.

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# Harman poised for Change at Benefits Agency

By Jason Nisbet

WHEN Harriet Harman arrived at the Department of Social Security just over a year ago, she found an unexploded bomb ticking away in her in-tray — the Change programme. This project, started by Peter Lilley, her Tory predecessor, is a step-by-step privatisation of the Benefits Agency, the part of the DSS which pays out £88 billion of benefits a year (the collection of the money — largely national insurance — is dealt with by the Contributions Agency which is being merged with the Inland Revenue).

Mr Lilley spent a long time looking at ways to cut the Benefits Agency's £2.4 billion a year administration costs. Giving his political perspective, Mr Lilley sought a private sector solution which became the Change programme. Under

Change a whole series of possible outsourcing projects were identified and given uplifting names, such as Prime, Prospect and Impact. Some of these have already been implemented — such as the £400 million transfer of 17 million sq ft of Benefits Agency offices in 700 buildings to a consortium led by Goldman Sachs.

But the most expensive part of Change was the one with the largest potential impact — Adapt. In this scheme three consortiums — led by computer groups EDS, Sema and Capita, and including the likes of NatWest, Price Waterhouse, Deloitte & Touche, Manpower and Group 4 — were invited to "shadow" an area directorate of the Benefits Agency for a year and then report how they could improve efficiency. The DSS was not going to pay a penny for this and, indeed, it is estimated that

the EDS consortium has spent £6 million of its own money on its part in Adapt.

Mr Lilley's plan was like asking schoolboys to run a tuck shop. The consultants were bound to recommend a scheme that involved farming out a large part of the Benefits Agency to outside consultants. Ms Harman decided last July that she might as well go forward with Adapt. The final reports are not due until the year-long project ends in August, but a preliminary report from one consortium, leaked to *Computer Weekly*, the trade magazine, suggested that £7 billion could be saved over ten years by contracting out.

These savings cannot be produced without pain. Indeed, suggestions are that up to a quarter of the Benefits Agency's 86,000 staff could be "freed up" as John Staples, of EDS,

euphemistically described the process in a recent interview. Ms Harman now has to weigh up the politically sensitive issue of embracing a Tory initiative and of sanctioning large-scale job losses against the possibility of saving nearly a third of the costs of one of the most expensive and inefficient departments of government.

If she goes ahead, it will be the largest government outsourcing deal not only in the UK, but possibly the world. The Labour Government has shown that it has no ideological problems with contracting out — it fits in with the Public-Private Partnership strategy being promoted by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General. Yet the irony of Ms Harman sanctioning one of the largest privatisations in history will not be lost on her political enemies.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### ITC expects digital rival boxes to coexist

THE Independent Television Commission (ITC) said it was confident agreement would be reached between digital satellite television and digital terrestrial operators on technical compatibility in time for the launch of digital services later this year. The ITC had previously expressed concern that if set-top boxes were incompatible consumers would wait to see which system wins, putting investment at risk. The ITC is prepared to accept that full compatibility may not be possible at digital's launch, but it wants it to be possible for the two systems to be linked with a simple plug-in module.

BSkyB, the satellite venture in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, has issued, but not yet served, a writ against British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the main commercial digital broadcaster. BSKyB claims that the system chosen by BDB cannot handle BSKyB's full electronic programme guide or offer impulse pay-per-view movies from the outset.

### Barr steps down

TRUST MOTOR GROUP, the motor business that emerged from Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust, yesterday revealed that Nicholas Barr had relinquished his chief executive responsibilities. Richard Bell, finance director, takes over as acting chief executive. The shares rose 5p to 178p yesterday. Talks on a buyout bid from the team led by Mr Barr broke down on Friday and centred on 210p. It is understood the board of Trust Motors not involved in the bid is holding out for 220p.

### Arlen in discussions

ARLEN, the electrical equipment group, yesterday revealed that it had received a number of approaches for parts of the group. It added, however, that the resulting discussions were still at a relatively early stage. The shares rose 4p to 30p, at which the company is valued at more than £21 million. The announcement followed a recent rebound in the share price from a low of 27p. The shares traded at 55p at the start of last year. Shareholders were promised a statement on any further developments.

### Mis-selling costs plea

MPs are to urge the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to protect policyholders from bearing costs of the pensions mis-selling scandal. Howard Davies, the FSA chairman, is to answer questions about the scandal before the Treasury committee today. One committee member, Jim Cousins, the Labour MP for Newcastle, is concerned that there is no policing of the costs. He said: "To say that costs will be divided between shareholders and policyholders is too glib."

### BT puts £800m on Web

BT is to invest a further £800 million in its network to meet the expected increase in demand for data and Internet services. The money will be spent on fibre optic cables and high-tech hubs to direct the expanding traffic of data across the telephone network. More than ten million e-mail messages are sent in the UK every day and BT expects that figure to expand dramatically. The investment is in addition to the £300 million announced earlier this year.

### Churchill China caution

SHARES in Churchill China fell 50p to 282½p yesterday after the tableware manufacturer announced a profit warning ahead of its half-year results. Michael Swinger, the chairman, told the annual meeting that profits would fall short of current market expectations for the year to December 31. The company, based in Stoke, has suffered a downturn in sales and blamed the fall on the strength of sterling and the economic crisis in Asia. Churchill sells to leisure companies such as Bass, Tom Cobley and Marriot hotels, as well as retail chains.

### Wellington shares soar

WELLINGTON UNDERWRITING, the Lloyd's insurance company, raised pre-tax profits from £10.5 million to £30.7 million in the year to the end of December. Earnings were 24.6p (20.3p) out of which the total dividend rises from 6.5p to 7.2p, with a 5.4p final. Its shares rose 23p to 190½p, a new high. Antony Haynes, the chairman, said: "Despite the difficult conditions, I am confident we will continue to deliver results in excess of the market's average."

### Fenner profit climbs

FENNER, the conveyor belts and fluid power company, enjoyed a 21 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £10.4 million in the half year to February 28. The company took a net £6.6 million charge against the disposal of its power transmission division and associated restructuring, leaving pre-tax profits for the year down at £3.73 million from £8.7 million. Adjusted earnings rose to 6.51p a share (5.84p). The interim dividend is 1.9p (1.8p) a share. The shares fell 11p to 203½p.

### Weather claims hit insurers as they prepare to merge

By Gavin Lumsden

SEVERE weather, intense competition and the strong pound have more than halved the first-quarter profits of Commercial Union and General Accident as they prepare to complete their merger to create CGU, the second-largest insurer in the country.

The two groups saw operating profits before tax fall to £103 million in the first three months of the year, compared with £217 million, as both reported losses on general insurance arising from floods in the UK and Australia and a severe winter in North America.

Commercial Union fared worse as operating profits slumped from £103 million to £40 million, pushing earnings per share down from 9.1p to 2.6p. Earnings per share at General Accident fell from 18.7p to 10.3p as its operating profits slipped from £114 million to £63 million.

A £35 million increase in weather claims pushed Commercial Union's general insurance business £4 million into the red as underwriting losses jumped £60 million to £131 million. Ice storms in Canada were largely responsible for claims to General Accident leaping £32 million to £72 million, which in turn knocked worldwide underwriting losses up from £42 million to £95 million.

Bob Scott, chief executive at General Accident and chief executive designate of CGU, denied the results showed the merger was being done from a position of weakness. Merging the two companies has cost £5 million so far.

Tempus, page 30



Bob Scott, of General Accident, left, and Sir John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union, both saw a decline in operating profits before tax

# Microsoft faces new challenge on eve of Windows 98 launch

From Oliver August in New York

MICROSOFT faces a new legal challenge before tomorrow's launch of Windows 98, its new operating system. Sun Microsystems, the software house that invented the Java programming language, is seeking an injunction to block the Windows 98 release because Microsoft's version of Java is not compatible with the original.

The case is not related to the antitrust suits to be filed by the Justice Department and several states today. But Sun's

complaint is likely to add to the public anger over Microsoft's monopolistic stance that has encouraged the Justice Department to press ahead with broad-based antitrust suits to top of a lawsuit filed by Sun Microsystems in the same court.

Sun alleges that Microsoft has changed Java's computer code for use in Windows 98 in breach of a contract that tied it to using Sun's standard. The Java language was originally created to run Web pages on the Internet, but is now being used in many other computer applications, including oper-

ating systems. Sun alleges that Microsoft is trying to defend its dominant position in the software sector by preventing it from establishing a new standard.

Sun claimed that it filed its suit in the week of the Windows 98 release because it had had little time to review Microsoft's new operating system and copyright law.

Sun had written earlier this month to gain its strongest possible position and to gain maximum publicity. Tod Nielsen, Microsoft relationship manager, said: "This is a public relations ploy for Sun to say they are going to file a position three days before the shipment of Windows 98 is curliest at best."

In its fight with government regulators, Microsoft yesterday won two minor reprieves. Texas, one of the dozen states planning to file an antitrust suit against the Justice Department, has announced that it will not sue Microsoft. The state appears to be that antitrust restrictions imposed on Windows 95 last December do not apply to Windows 98.

Rob Esposito, an analyst at Edge Information Group, said: "Sun's lawsuit could lead to a change in the way some of its shareholders are treated."

# Chrysler board set for \$1bn merger bonanza

From Oliver August in New York

CHRYSLER executives could earn more than \$1 billion (£610 million) after the merger with Daimler-Benz, the German industrial group. The early redemption of stock options is likely to create a \$100 million windfall for Robert Eaton, the chairman and chief executive.

The executives are the beneficiaries of German corporate law, under which company officers cannot be given stock options. As a result, the existing Chrysler share options of Mr Eaton and his board will be converted into shares of DaimlerChrysler, the new combined group, rather than new share options.

In most mergers and takeovers, existing share-option schemes are translated into new schemes based on the



Eaton: \$100m windfall

agreed share swap ratio and with extended redemption periods. This was not possible with Daimler, which does not have an option scheme.

The pay bonanza of the Chrysler board is likely to spark protests from other shareholders. In theory, executives could sell their shares on the day the merger closes rather than having to wait several years to exercise options under the old scheme.

News of the German legal quirk could also help to entice other American car companies to find German partners. Volkswagen and BMW, who are both bidding to buy the Rolls-Royce car business, are the most likely candidates.

Chrysler executives have been given 30 million options at an average price of \$27. Daimler will convert the shares into DaimlerChrysler shares based on a valuation of around \$60. Asked whether his share options played a role in the merger negotiations, Mr Eaton said: "My personal situation never came to my mind. We are trying to create the leading auto company in the world for the future of all our stakeholders."

# Trafford Park board rejects bid

By Matthew Barbour

A LAST-MINUTE bid by Green Property for Trafford Park Estates, the Manchester property company, has been rejected by directors who said the bid undervalued the company.

Green Property, the Dublin property group, approached Trafford Park last month after it announced a £26.7 million takeover of Barlows, a smaller North West rival.

The Trafford Park special shareholders meeting to approve the Barlows deal is to take place on Friday.

However Trafford Park directors back the merger with Barlows. Green made its bid for Trafford conditional on the Barlows bid being dropped. Trafford shares closed up 15½p at 174½p. Green fell 1½p to 461½p.

# Bichan cleared as jury convicts Butte director

By Jon Ashworth

THE jury in the Butte Mining trial yesterday returned a guilty verdict against John Clarke, 49, a founder director of the mining company. A not guilty verdict was entered against Roy Bichan, 53, former chairman of Robertson Group, a consultancy, and former deputy chairman of the Welsh Development Agency.

The jury continues to deliberate over the two remaining defendants, Clive Smith and Malcolm Clews, who deny conspiring to defraud investors in connection with the flotation of Butte Mining in October 1987.

They deny misleading investors over the listing particulars and failing to disclose beneficial interests. Deliberations resume today at Chichester Rents, an Old Bailey annexe in Central London.

The jury in the ten-month trial retired to consider their verdicts on April 21, and have deliberated for 57 hours so far. The jury of seven men and three women found against Clarke on a 9-1 majority. The verdicts with respect to Dr Bichan was unanimous.

Clarke had denied setting up a trust to receive Butte Mining shares and told the court his only benefit was negotiating a service contract worth about £1 million. Dr Bichan, a geologist, was arrested in June 1995 after a three-year investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. He was non-executive chairman of Butte between September 1987 and December 1988.

Those who climb succeed.

مكتبة ابن النجار







# Hillsdown in the spotlight as FTSE nudges forward

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS was at the centre of takeover speculation yesterday as the market digested last week's news that the food manufacturing company plans to split itself into three.

Hillsdown was one of the most actively traded shares yesterday with volume figures showing 15 million shares — or nearly 2 per cent of the stock — being traded. The shares rose 7p to close at 181p — within a couple of pence of a 12-month high.

Some think that Hillsdown could be subject to a takeover bid for the whole group. Others reckon it is more likely that the business will fall prey before — or shortly after — the demerger takes place. Brokers put the break-up value of Hillsdown at 200p. It could be a bit more if corporate raiders and buyout specialists begin vying against one another.

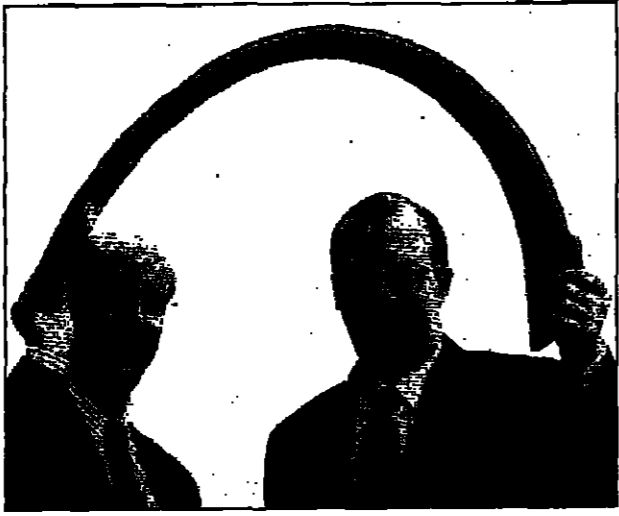
Geest, unchanged at 51p, and Northern Foods, up 2p at 216p, were immediately identified as possible buyers of Hillsdown's chilled food business. Fairview Homes, Hillsdown's housebuilding arm, also has fans.

The FTSE 100 meandered through much of the day, with dealers wondering what to make of economic data. Average earnings figures showed much stronger growth than was anticipated, prompting some to fear interest rates may have to rise. Possible deflationary effects of the renewed economic and social unrest in the Far East, however, worked to ease interest rate worries.

The FTSE 100 index was up 43.5 early on, gains which meant it made it through the 6,000 mark, briefly, it fell below again by mid-noon but Wall Street's good opening showed settled nerves. The index closed up 16.2 at 5,972.9.

A full 51p — or nearly 6 per cent — was knocked off Standard Chartered shares. They closed at 828p as worries circulated about the recent flare-up in trouble-torn Indonesia. Negative comment from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, re-iterating its sell stance, did not help. HSBC Holdings, another bank with Far East exposure, was caught in the same bearish draught, losing 6p — 3.6 per cent — to finish the day at 1698p.

Investment trusts with Pacific Basin exposure felt the heat. Templeton Emerging Markets fell nearly 4 per cent



Mark Abrahams, left, and Richard Perry, finance director, saw Fenner dip despite profits in line with expectations

to 115p and Govett Oriental was down 3 per cent at 88p.

Elsewhere in the banking sector and away from Far East fell out a "buy" recommendation from analysts at Charterhouse. Tiney Securities helped Royal Bank of Scotland to find its way back through the £10 level. It closed up 15p at £10.03, having touched £10.05 during the day.

Information technology stocks were in demand after strong results from Sage, the accountancy computer software writer. Sage raced ahead to £13.87p from £13.42p. MMT Computing, which rose 40p on Tuesday as it reported near doubled profits, built on those gains, ending the day another 35p higher at £13.07p. For a short time last

August the stock was trading below 300p.

Fellow travellers Logica sped to £18.60 from £17.57p; CMG put on 82p to finish at £28.80 and Sema added 45p at £23.22p. Micro Focus was also in favour ahead of results that are due to be published this morning. It was 45p higher at 575p. Enthusiasm for the sector was heightened — not that it needed to be — by anticipation of an information technology trade show that kicks off today in London. Some of the companies will be displaying wares.

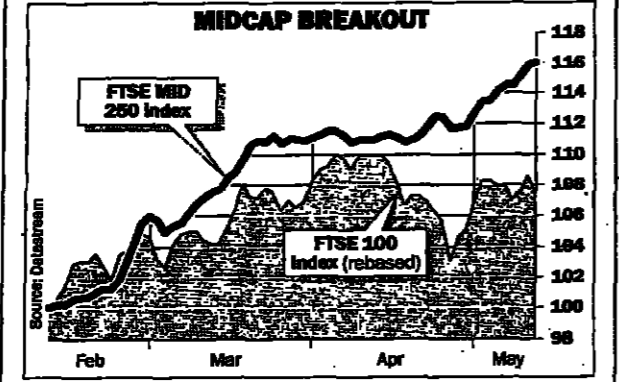
Fenner, the engineer where Mark Abrahams is chief executive, lost ground despite posting interim profits in line with expectations. The shares have performed strongly in the last week ahead of the results and yesterday's dip decline from 214p was put down to profit-taking.

Market newcomer Thomson Travel rose 5p to 195p. It has captured the interest of private investors, having been floated on Monday at 170p. Good results and an upbeat trading statement from Wellington Underwriting, the Lloyd's insurance concern, sent its shares up 14p to a new high for the year of 190p. This, and positive vibes from Charterhouse helped Hiscox, another operator at Lloyd's, to continue to recover from a hiccup caused by nervousness ahead of figures published two weeks ago. Hiscox was up 4p at 102p yesterday in place of the 167p bid for the year but still behind the 206p peak seen in January.

Zeneca, the pharmaceutical company rose 3p to £25.60 after JP Morgan, the broker, also turned positive. Morgan reckons Zeneca shares trade at a 13 per cent discount to other drugs companies across the globe and that the price could reach £29 during the next 12 months.

**GILT-EDGED:** Economic worries pushed the prices of most government stock lower. At the short end Treasury 13 per cent 2000 was two ticks off at £127. At the long end Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down 1/2p at £123 1/2.

**NEW YORK:** Shares traded higher in the morning session with new economic data supporting an optimistic outlook for the US economy. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 42.85 points at 9,204.62 by midday.



**SECOND-LINE** stocks continue to shine after a prolonged period sulking in the shadows of their larger brethren in the FTSE 100. The FTSE 250, the index that measures the performance of stocks just below the top flight, closed in new territory again. It rose 9.2 to 5788.9. The FTSE Small Cap index also reached a new high of 2743.7, up 4.6. Not before time, perhaps. Second-liners may still have some way to catch up but a gap is beginning to appear between their short term performance and the record of the bigger blue chips. Several factors are coinciding to help smaller stocks. First the bull market of the last couple of years has squeezed value out of the big boys and investors are finally beginning to look elsewhere for bargains. The senior division is also crammed with financial services and drugs companies too, and investors are looking for a bit more variety. Takeover speculation has moved down to the second tier too. Thoughts are that exporting second-liners are the kind of companies that could benefit if sterling slides.

### MARKET INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 9204.62 (+42.85)  
S&P Composite 1118.03 (+3.48)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 15343.81 (+21.33)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 9469.29 (+372.22)

Amsterdam:  
AEX Index 1173.95 (+7.25)

Sydney:  
AO 2717.1 (+1.3)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 5376.88 (+79.53)

Singapore:  
Straits 1331.98 (+68.07)

Brussels:  
General 18720.01 (+241.89)

Paris:  
CAC-40 4019.76 (+32.43)

Zurich:  
SIX Index 1584.40 (+27.0)

London:  
FTSE 100 5972.9 (+16.2)  
FTSE 250 5788.9 (+9.2)  
FTSE 350 2893.7 (+7.2)  
FTSE Europe 100 2821.02 (+9.86)  
FTSE All-Share 2827.00 (+6.91)  
FTSE Non Financials 2839.13 (+10.38)  
FTSE Financials 1408.3 (+2.23)  
FTSE Govt Secs 104.15 (+0.11)  
FTSE Volume 454.64

AB Airlines 100% + 27  
ARM Hldgs (575) 777% + 3  
Aberdeen Criville C 103  
Ambisphus Pub Co 230  
Aspet B 61  
BTR Red PFI B 38  
Baronsmead VCT 2 87  
Captain OM Wats (4) 5  
Close Bros ADM VCT 100  
Desire Petroleum 176% + 9  
DOW Warrants 20  
CRE Red PFI B 20  
IWE Telecom 124%  
Lorntro Africa 90% + 14  
Murray VCT 3 (100) 97%  
Transport Dev B 35%

Avocet Mining n/p (60) 1%  
Preprint Lts n/p (325) 42  
Guinness n/p (20) 12  
Magnum Pwr n/p (12) 4  
Mon Oil & Gas n/p (55) 6  
Proteus Intl n/p (45) 4

### RISKS:

Micro Focus 575p (+45p)  
Royal Mail 380p (+25p)  
Whitehead Mann 248p (+14p)  
Air London 400p (+22p)  
Airtours 541p (+27p)  
Dunelm Retail 620p (+30p)  
Parsons (H) 317p (+15p)  
Pascall 341p (+16p)  
SOCO Intl 277p (+12p)  
Bark Scotland 732p (+19p)  
Reuters 881p (+17p)  
Enterprise 575p (+24p)  
EM 556p (+22p)

### FALLS:

Scotia 355p (-22p)  
Wor 208p (-16p)  
Imperial 923p (-40p)  
Smiths Inds 923p (-35p)  
Laporte 842p (-24p)  
Electrocompts 542p (-15p)  
Capita Gp 538p (-14p)  
Eurochem 459p (-12p)  
Lorien 755p (-17p)

### OTHER STERLING:

Argentina peso 1.6342-1.6369  
Aussie dollar 1.6412-1.6415  
Bahrain dinar 0.6080-0.6220  
Brazil real 1.8665-1.8714  
Czech crown 1.4115-1.4115  
Cypriot pound 0.9425-0.9215  
Danish krone 7.4622-7.4603  
Euro franc 162.32-162.32  
Hong Kong dollar 7.7479-7.7484  
Indian rupee 1.4115-1.4115  
Italian lira 175.50-175.50  
Japanese yen 134.28-134.28  
Malaysian ringgit 3.4040-3.4040  
Mexican peso 16.525-16.525  
New Zealand dollar 0.5925-0.5925  
Pakistan rupee 70.20-70.20  
Saudi riyal 4.834-4.834  
Singapore dollar 2.0712-2.0712  
Sri Lanka rand 8.9250-8.9250  
Swiss franc 1.6364-1.6364  
Taiwan dollar 3.4040-3.4040  
US dollar 1.6364-1.6364

### PRIME BANK BILLS:

1 month 7 1/2%  
3 month 7 1/4%  
6 month 7 1/4%  
12 month 7 1/4%

### LOCAL AUTHORITY DEBTS:

12 month 7 1/4%  
3 month 7 1/4%  
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12 month 7 1/4%

## TEMPUS Preparing to dance

THE RUTHLESS way that Dick Brown has gone about disposing of Cable & Wireless's non-core assets and focusing its main activities has won him admirers in the City. Most recently, C&W got rid of its 20 per cent stake in Bouygues Telecom — a French mobile telecoms company not seen as strategically important. Before that, the underperforming Mercury Communications was merged with three other companies to form Cable & Wireless Communications. CWC looks a good deal for C&W: it effectively controls the joint venture, which shares the C&W branding.

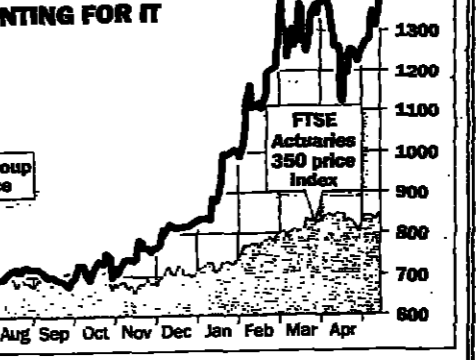
C&W may have become more efficient, but so have its competitors and they are much bigger. This week's \$71 billion takeover of Ameritech by SBC Communications in the US is a good example. Mr Brown has said he is prepared to "dance with the elephants" — but when will he actually be prepared to take one home with him? C&W, like British Telecom, needs to establish exactly what its ambitions are in North America. Although its US division is successful, it has only 1 per cent of the market. Strategic alliances seem more likely than a merger, but investors should be wary: they are usually unstable and rarely deliver shareholder value. That said, C&W has impressed with an innovative alliance with Telecom Italia.

Elsewhere, a flotation is planned for Optus, its partly owned subsidiary in Australia, while in China C&W has to turn a healthy relationship with the authorities into meaningful business. At 685p the shares look fair value, even without factoring in the possibility of an eventual merger with British Telecom.

**Sage Group**  
SAGE GROUP broke into new territory once again yesterday as another set of good results from the accounting software company sent the shares up 45p to £13.87p. Sage's management is almost embarrassed, falling back to pointing at the extravagant valuations enjoyed by similar firms in the US. This will not do.

Sage may be the market leader, but can it really sustain the operating margins of 45 per cent that it enjoys in the UK? And what are its chances of lifting margins anywhere close to this level in the US and Europe? Sage has changed the way KHK charges for its products, but it is still too early to judge whether German customers and dealers will be happy to see Sage cream off a bigger share of profits. Add in the risk of a large American acquisition in a fragmented and sophisticated market, and it is hard to avoid the conclusion that Sage shares involve unacceptable risks. Sell.

**CU/GA**  
IF SHAKESPEARE wrote the script for Commercial Union's merger with General Accident, the omens for a happy union would look bad. Since announcing nuptials in February the insurers have been assailed by ice storms, fire and floods, which have pushed their non-life business into loss and more than halved their combined first-quarter operating profits.



Leaving aside superstition, however, the natural perils underline the sense of the merger. Margins are so tight in the mature general insurance market that a few changes in the natural order are rapidly translated into financial pain. CGU, as the merged group will call itself, will be the UK's second largest insurer, giving it more scope to cut costs and squeeze revenue from this competitive sector.

Investors will rightly view 1998 as a tricky transitional year. Analysis has cut their forecasts for CGU's operating profits from £925 million to £850 million and expect earnings per share to be at most 37p, compared with the pro forma 44.5p last year. Although shares in both companies have slipped from their recent heights, they continue to look pricey.

**Games Workshop**  
THE dangers of chasing hot stocks were amply demonstrated by Games Workshop

last year, whose shares lost a quarter of their value on the back of a decidedly modest profit warning. The company, which uncovered an unlikely goldmine in toy soldiers, still expects to improve profits this year, even after taking a £2 million hit from the strong pound. Yet such was the hype that accompanied Games Workshop's heady rise that this was seen as a big setback.

Profits will come in below expectations partly because of stock management problems that followed a move to a new plant in Nottingham from three previous sites. Similar difficulties have been encountered by many other small companies trying to cope with rapid growth.

Games Workshop's prospects continue to look sound. But now that the bubble of optimism has been punctured, investors may have to be content with a more modest rate of progress.

### LIFFE

COCOA 1227-1232  
COPPER 125-126  
GOLD 373.0  
SILVER 23.5  
WHEAT 200-205  
SUGAR 230-235

### ICIS-LOR (London 6:00pm)

CRUDE OILS \$/barrel FOB  
Brent Physical 15.40 -0.25  
Brent 2 Day Oil 14.45 -0.25  
WTI Intermediate (Jul) 15.75 -0.25  
WTI Intermediate (Aug) 16.15 -0.25

### GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (June 14) 78.00  
BARLEY (June 14) 72.00  
RUBBER (No 1 RSS C) 104.00  
SUGAR (No 11) 118.00

### LONG GILT

Period Open High Low Sell  
Sep 98 108.32 108.34 107.98 108.07 52.10  
Oct 98 108.42 108.43 108.22 108.24 302

### OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso 1.6342-1.6369  
Aussie dollar 1.6412-1.6415  
Bahrain dinar 0.6080-0.6220  
Brazil real 1.8665-1.8714

### MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Beef 67.18  
Lamb 133.75  
Pork 11.78  
Chicken 42.87

### PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)  
Premium Ethanol 162.00  
35 Fuel Oil 65.00  
Naphtha 145.00

### LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Copper GDE A/B (3mt) 2222-2225  
Lead (3mt) 1510-1515  
Zinc (3mt) 1050-1055  
Tin (3mt) 5700-5705

### PRIME BANK BILLS

1 month 7 1/2%  
3 month 7 1/4%  
6 month 7 1/4%  
12 month 7 1/4%

### MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rate Clearing Banks 7 1/2%  
Discount Market 8 1/4%  
Treasury Bills (91 day) 7 1/8%

### FTSE 100

Company Price Change  
ASDA 180 10 31%  
Astra 110 10 10%  
Axa 110 10 10%  
Axa 110 10 10%  
Axa 110 10 10%

### FTSE 250

Company Price Change  
Airtours 110 10 10%  
Airtours 110 10 10%  
Airtours 110 10 10%

### FTSE 350

Company Price Change  
Airtours 110 10 10%  
Airtours 110 10 10%

### FTSE EUROPE 100

Company Price Change  
Airtours 110 10 10%  
Airtours 110 10 10%

### FTSE ALL-SHARE

Company Price Change  
Airtours 110 10 10%  
Airtours 110 10 10%

### DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.5923-1.5936  
Austria 1.352-1.353  
Belgium (Com) 1.362-1.363

### WALL STREET

May 12  
Dow Jones 9204.62  
S&P 500 1118.03

### WALL STREET

May 12  
Dow Jones 9204.62  
S&P 500 1118.03

Half...  
Fraser Nelson  
Safe to go  
supermarket  
has bitten  
more than  
it can chew



# Business can keep ahead of its enemies

Running a business seems to become more complex by the day. The more companies focus on the simple, if tyrannical discipline of the bottom line, the more extraneous demands are hurled at managers by other would-be masters.

After a routine day coping with inflexible bureaucrats, unreasonable regulators, consumer lobbyists, environmental activists and sneering lawyers, it is comforting to be told that the world really is against you. That is doubtless why financial support is forthcoming for the Social Affairs Unit, the antidote to political correctness.

Many harassed company executives will warm to the idea of *The Corporation under Siege*, the unit's latest 12-page pamphlet. It identifies a loose conspiracy of the above hate figures waging a war on business by scare tactics over anything "from baby milk and Brent Spar to soy and silicone". Using a devil's toolbox of underhand, intellectually dishonest but recurring techniques, these convincing, self-serving people are

frightening us needlessly, raising prices, depriving us of good products, ruining hapless producers and sowing benign progress.

Authors Mark Neal and Christie Davies, both sociologists at the University of Reading, conclude: "When products are attacked we are all under attack". Sadly, this diatribe brings back memories of repetitive, leftist "Dave Spart" tracts of the 1970s and 1980s, which railed wildly against the evils of the capitalism that was manifestly making most people so much better off. Most managers who wade through it will realise how far ahead of this loser's polemic their own practice has moved in just a few years.

Manufacturers now take it for granted that cars should become ever safer and ever less noxious. Not too long ago, minds were stretched by ferocious agitation. Much is made by the sociologists of Greenpeace's faulty figures when it exaggerated the danger of scuttling the Brent Spar storage buoy. Scares about genetically modified food, or food that is irradiated to keep it healthy longer, are attacked for focusing on the process instead of the product.

In affluent, information-rich societies, however, the process often becomes an important part of a consumer product. The best companies understand this and build it into their marketing.

Battery eggs may die out if they give consumers less satisfaction than the same egg produced in supposedly less cruel ways. It is daft to fantasise that consumers would be better off not knowing the egg's origin. Ignorance is not acceptance. Producers of food from genetically modified plants only have a good product when they can sell its virtues openly to consumers. Only bad managers

sell a product secretly until someone finds out, a scare starts and they lose their business.

Shell rediscovered this over Brent Spar. Greenpeace's campaign, though wildly inaccurate, was positive. This was a precedent for hundreds of North Sea rigs.

The object, already embraced by many good companies, is to ensure that they plan ultimate disposal



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

into the design of their product or plant. It is no good leaving that to be sorted out later. Failure to think through the issues of radioactive waste and decommissioning, not Chernobyl, has ultimately strangled the otherwise desirable nuclear power industry.

Today's buoyant recycling businesses are a product of agitation. If annoying activists can force business to plan at an early stage, it can save a lot more money, as well as the odd catastrophe, later on.

Activists are shrill because they could otherwise not overcome the inertia of established interests. As small business had to learn in the 1970s, those outside the power circle have to shout to be heard. Terrorism is always unfair, always damned but usually works. By incorporating legitimate interests into the heart of business and government business, stridency may be calmed. Absurd and

authoritarian agitation about very small risks of passive smoking, for instance, can be blamed on governments failing to respond earlier to genuine health concerns by deterring young people from taking up cigarettes.

In matters governed by the European Union, business itself will probably have to learn to become more strident. Already, there are paper mountains of regulations generally agreed to be outdated, pointless and counterproductive, but which are deemed impossible to change. EU directives, like product regulations and bans, should have a fixed life of no more than 20 years before they need to be renewed. Regulators and bureaucrats need to catch up with business in flexibility.

The basic trouble with product scares, as Messrs Neal and Davies rightly emphasise, is that our society finds it so hard to dis-

guish between tiny risks that are well worth taking and big ones that can be avoided. Spend a few minutes with a drug formulary and you will find that virtually every useful drug can have undesirable side-effects. But regulation makes us expect approved drugs to be risk free. We must explore potential risks. But they should be assessed alongside benefits. Otherwise domestic electricity, which is regularly fatal, would be banned on safety grounds if invented today.

If this tendency is to change, risks need to be assessed much more openly, even if this temporarily makes life even more frightening for those who believe scares. We need a successor to Lord Young of Darrington, who founded the Consumers Association to help force smug manufacturers in protected markets to improve quality and value. Much of that task is done: market forces have taken over. The need today is to explore risks routinely, before unheeded concerns need to be typed up into scares.

# Safeway still has a long way to go on the road to recovery

Fraser Nelson on whether the supermarket has bitten off more than it can chew



Given a grilling: David Webster, chairman, left, and Colin Smith have seen sales growth improve, but at a price

Colin Smith has a soft spot for muffins. The chief executive of Safeway was munching through a pile of them yesterday, by means of illustrating how the company is using all sorts of delicacies to fight off its supermarket rivals.

"The double chocolate ones are my favourite," he explained, breaking off a corner of the muffin and letting the soft centre dribble down to the bottom of the bun. "It's great when you get to the gooey bit. Believe me."

He should know. Mr Smith has been finding his way through the gooey bit of retailing for some time now, having issued three profit warnings and holding abortive takeover talks with Asda.

The shares have plunged to lows not seen since the recession, kept alive only by hopes that Safeway will be taken out of the market by a more successful competitor. All told, a very gooey nine months indeed.

Yesterday provided the first encouraging signs in almost a year. After an all-out promotion campaign, which gave away millions of pounds worth of reductions through treble points on ABC cards, Safeway is finally managing a like-for-like sales growth of 6 per cent. For once, it is managing to steal back some market share from its rivals, who are having to make do with 4 per cent growth.

But the City points out that Safeway is in a state of emergency and is effectively buying this sales growth by throwing away millions of pounds in giveaways.

It has set up warehouses, ordered heavy supplies of cheap milk and has recruited scores of bakers to sell things like double-chocolate muffins. This will cost some £20

million this year, but Mr Smith is unrepentant. "We've got to get the sales momentum going again," he said. "It will be an expensive process, but we need a platform to build on. When you are going through a rough time — as we were last autumn — we step back and look at everything."

So far, Mr Smith says that things are working. It is sticking to the policy — set out by Sir Alistair Grant years ago — to target mothers with young children by opening creches among other things. The idea is simple: win over shoppers by the age of six and they will be theirs for life.

Sadly, this has alienated other shoppers. Young, single people have taken their Switch cards to the likes of Tesco, where they can buy a wide range of chilled foods until ten o'clock at night.

Safeway is fighting back by expanding its own chilled food range. As a result, it says that its relatively mod-

est chilled food sales are now up 65 per cent year on year.

The second line of attack has been through loyalty cards. Since every supermarket joined the fray, they have polarised shoppers dramatically. Safeway turned out to be the kind of shop people used as a second choice and was left wanting when their customers were asked to use

one supermarket on a regular basis.

Of the seven million who took out its loyalty cards, four-and-a-half million used them — nipping to their local Asda or Tesco whenever possible.

Its response has been to offer £20 million worth of free bonus points to people who spend more than £240 a

month at Safeway. The idea is to pay through the nose to buy back shoppers — and Mr Smith says it has brought 300,000 extra users. This is a form of penitence.

No more self-scramming or jazzy superficial appendages — Safeway is ploughing millions into the basics, with the target of filling nine shelves in ten. Its fight for survival is based on a simple promise: more of the same, but better than before.

While Safeway is convalescing, analysts fear that it can afford neither the time nor the money to prepare for a new era of food retailing.

Safeway's results, even at a pre-tax profit slump to £375 million from £430 million, enjoyed the benefit of a number of factors that are unlikely to be repeated. The strong pound could be one of these. If George Soros is right, there will be no more cheap bananas or Italian pesto to massage profit margins in the future.

The effect of longer open-

ing hours and loyalty cards has also lifted profits for the four main grocers this year. Consumers have enjoyed a touch more cash in their pockets and are willing to buy ciabatta bread rather than Mother's Pride.

Add to this, longer opening hours, books and CDs — and this has allowed Safeway to grow sales by 6 per cent to £7.5 billion — even with price deflation, which slumped to 0.5 per cent.

The trends encouraging greater supermarket food shopping have stretched as far as they can go, making real profits growth difficult to come by in the future.

Mike Dennis, analyst at SG Securities, reckons this will stiffen trading conditions this year, creating a brick wall for food retailers just about the same time as Safeway recovers.

While Safeway applies the first aid to its supply chain, Asda is moving into clothes and Tesco into cosmetics, joining J Sainsbury in late-opening convenience stores.

Mr Dennis said: "Safeway can't really compete in this area because it simply can't afford the cost. Scale is a key issue now — supermarkets will need a vast amount of critical mass; that is why Safeway and Asda were in takeover talks for so long."

"They are trying to implement a strategy on the consumer, rather than trying to follow the consumer. They will eventually come up against the issue that they do not have the scale of business to justify this."

Safeway certainly cannot be accused of chasing scale. It has just finished spending some £30 million on closing down 22 smaller Safeway stores and 22 Presto stores.

Mr Smith's strategy of spending millions taking remedial action is praised as a design for a long-term recovery, not a short-term fix. But when asked where Safeway will be in five years, the City's favourite reply is still "in little bits".

Meanwhile, Mr Smith is preparing to go it alone for some time to come. "Running Safeway," he said, "is like a driving a Formula One car. You need everything to work at once: the brakes, the engine and the driver. This is all we are trying to do."

SHOPPING LIST			
Grocers' share of food, drinks, health and beauty, confectionery, tobacco and newspapers			
Retailer	1988	1992	1998
Tesco	8.7	10.8	16.8
J Sainsbury	9.4	11.4	13.3
Asda	4.8	6.5	8.8
Safeway	6.6	7.3	6.1
Co-op	7.7	7.5	5.4
Somerfield	7.2	4.3	3.7
Kwik Save	1.8	3.5	3.3

Source: Verdict Research.  
1988 figures are estimates for the beginning of the year.

# Companies to reap benefits of high-tech propaganda

When the Labour Party won the general election in May last year, much was made of the way faceless spin-doctors in Millbank Tower used technology to keep MPs informed and "on-message". Now, it seems, business is also beginning to recognise the advantages of a propaganda machine churning out information day and night.

Cisco Systems, the US technology company, has become one of the world's first multinationals to develop its own internal multi-media broadcast system. It is called CiscoCast and gives employees a blast of company propaganda hours before the rest of the world gets to criticise important company announcements. Cisco claims it is an effective method of giving employees a positive view of the company and keeping them informed.

The company says its staff get bombarded by up to 100 e-mails a day, leaving important messages buried under a mass of commercial junk and office gossip. With CiscoCast, any important company message uses a mixture of video, text and audio.

So on financial results day your company chairman would appear in the centre of your screen and inspire you to work harder from his or her little digitised box. Of course, you could always click on it to make it go away.

Cisco's description of its service sounds predictably Orwellian: "When news arrives, it is packaged into a box containing a headline which slides on to the screen, over whatever else is on the screen at that time. Both boxes are designed to fit in with Cisco's branding philosophy and corporate colour schemes."

Teething problems have included working out an editorial policy for CiscoCast. Most of the conflicts have arisen between rival heads of department, all wanting to broadcast their own messages.

One solution has been to base the system on "push" technology developed for the Internet. Users tell the CiscoCast software what interests them, and it looks for relevant news on the company's central database. This allows users to get only relevant information and solves many editorial disputes.

A bigger problem for most companies, however, would be convincing employees that there is no sinister underbelly to such a system. Richard



Freemantle, Cisco's European vice-president, agrees, citing the example of CiscoCast: "You can send your company boss away but he keeps on coming back." And if you don't look at him, he knows."

INSURANCE of up to \$50 million (£31 million) to cover computer hacking has been made available by the Lloyd's market and can be obtained from Jardine Lloyd Thompson, the broker. The product is known as computer information and data security insurance (CIDSII) and covers loss caused by fraudulent or malicious acts, computer virus attacks, extortion linked with threatened computer attacks, and business interruption because of viruses or hacking.

FIRMS with fewer than 100 staff are not doing enough to make use of modern technology, according to a Department of Trade and Industry report out this week. The report found that Internet use was up by 40 per cent in 1997 among British companies and that 40 per cent of all companies now have websites.



Roche: digital benefits

Barbara Roche, Minister for Trade, said that although the UK came behind the US and Japan in technological development in most areas, companies supplying services over interactive television would benefit from the country being the first to license digital terrestrial television.

CHRIS AYRES

# Half life

THERE was a time when insurance was a dull business. So riotous has the industry now become that the Association of British Insurers, the trade body, has had to shorten the period of office of its board of directors drawn from the industry. Too many were losing their jobs halfway through their two-year terms. So a new chairman will take over on July 8, just a year after the last one started. "We've had quite a lot of turnover of people in the industry because of takeovers and mergers, and it seemed more appropriate."

Tony Baker, the ABI's deputy director-general, tells me, citing recent or pending departures from Bupa and Commercial Union. The new chairman is Sandy Leitch, chief executive of BAT's financial services arm.

Which is a bit embarrassing, really, because the man being dropped halfway is Roger Taylor. He is one of the two who fell out at Royal & Sun Alliance, and shared a huge payoff. Taylor's share was £794,000, but he continued as non-executive deputy chairman at Royal because of his external connections, particularly with the ABI. There is therefore speculation that he may finally be on his way in July.

A MERCHANT banker dies, and finds himself at the Pearly Gates. St Peter explains that they have a special routine these days for his sort, who have to spend a day in Heaven and one in Hell and choose which they prefer. Our banker's day in Heaven is all right, lying around on clouds playing harps, but a bit boring, really. The next day, in mortal terror, he gets into the lift and is whisked down to Hell.

And walks out on to a golf course, on a beautiful spring day. All his old friends are there, and they have a couple of rounds and then retire to a well-stocked clubhouse. Even the Devil turns out to be a fine chap. The



"Wonderful news — the builders are having another tea break"



next day he cheerfully elects for Hell. Down the lift, and out into scenes of torment and terror this time. Eternal flames, racks, boiling lakes. And the Devil, grinning in the middle of it all. "Where's the golf, where's the clubhouse?" he asks as he is dragged off. "You don't understand," says the Devil. "Yesterday you were a prospect. Today you're a client."

Own goal  
NEWCASTLE United might not win the FA Cup on Saturday, but the club has broken at least one record this year. A body called PressWatch has for five years produced a quarterly league table of negative national newspaper coverage for public companies. Previous winners include

Shell, for Nigeria and the Brent Spar, for example, while the previous record, 3,191 scathing column inches, was held by British Gas during the Cedric the pig saga. (To give a sense of scale, Barings only scored 2,728, and the bank went bust for hundreds of millions, for Heaven's sake). Newcastle, after certain ill-adviced comments made by two directors in a Spanish brothel, trumped home with a record score of 4,219.

THE regular summer blow-out by the Carnivores' Club, formed by Neville Abraham and Laurence Isaacson of C&G, always includes a stunt to upset the vegetarians. A pickled sheep once, last year real live stock. For the next bash, at Covent Garden in a fortnight, they fancied a cow-shaped balloon after someone saw one at a show, except they can't remember where. There are rumours of one in the possession of some Dutch farmers somewhere. I suggest that pig Pink Floyd used to use at their shows instead, and promise to pass on any other offers I receive.

Bully off  
A CLUTCH of stars from the cricketing world will kick off, or whatever you do, this summer's Corney & Barrow Croquet League, the tournament of City firms that runs at Exchange Square, Broadgate until September. I naturally assumed they were there because it sounds better than "a clutch of stars from the

croquet world", but it seems the Veuve Clicquot Cup this year has a cricketing theme. It will raise money for the Lady Taverners, the distaff side of the Lord's Taverners. So there is a launch match featuring Mike Gatting and Rachel Heyhoe-Flint, the former England captain, Sir Tim Rice and others on June 2.

Very few them can actually play croquet. I am told the original idea was to field two sides with strongly opposing views on whether the MCC should admit women, for a grudge match and perhaps the odd bout of fistfights. Until someone remembered how much damage you can do with a croquet mallet.

MARTIN WALLER



Mike Gatting tries a new sport at Broadgate later this month

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# Companies fail to combat the risk of fraud

By Jon Ashworth

COMPANIES remain at risk of Nick Leeson-style "rogue trader" frauds, despite calls for increased vigilance in combating international white-collar crime.

Directors and senior managers continue to place undue reliance on local management or internal audits, and rarely visit remote locations to ensure that adequate controls are in place. Worst offenders are executives in mainland Europe, and France in particular.

Recoveries from fraud, including insurance recoveries, may be as low as 13 per cent, according to a survey of 11,000 companies worldwide by Ernst & Young, the accountants. The total of "worst-case" frauds suffered by respondents in the year to October 1997 was \$625 million (£375 million), of which only \$85 million was recovered.

Rates of recovery were much lower in the Caribbean, in the Middle East and in the oil and

gas sector. Little was recovered in insurance. Four out of five respondents did not believe their businesses were insured against such losses.

Ignorance about computers, coupled with their increasing use and growth of computer-related crime, could have disastrous consequences for companies. Ernst & Young found. It is feared that fraudsters will exploit the so-called millennium bug to gain access to funds transfer and electronic trading systems. Only one-third of respondents had specifically addressed the risk of computer crime in their project planning.

Disturbingly, the survey suggests that fraud tends to be committed by long-serving employees, rather than by recent recruits. Nearly half of employees who had committed fraud had been with the organisation for more than five years. Long-servers have

the opportunity to assess their employer's attitude towards fraud, the controls in place to prevent it, and the ways to circumvent those controls.

David Sherwin, partner in charge of Ernst & Young's fraud investigation group in the UK, said: "Companies need to act positively to prevent fraud happening in the first instance. They need to institute proper prevention and reporting policies and ensure that directors understand their core business and overseas operations."

He added: "This survey shows clearly that it doesn't matter where you are in the world, the risk of falling victim to fraud is just as high. The consequences of tax controls can be devastating if just one employee decides to put his fingers in the till." Ernst & Young surveyed senior executives in 11,000 companies in 32 countries.



Barry Whitehead, finance director of Century Inns, left, with Alistair Arkley

# Century Inns froths to £4.5m

CENTURY INNS, owner of the Tap & Spile real ale pub chain, lifted pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £4.5 million in the half-year to March 31, despite disruption from a £2.5 million refurbishment programme (Dominic Walsh writes).

Turnover almost doubled to £25.2 million as acquisitions came on stream. Much of the investment is going into the 45-strong Tap & Spile chain, which is being revamped. Alistair Arkley, chief executive, said that the group's 400

tenanted houses had performed well, improving like-for-like profits and volumes by about 1 per cent in a declining market. Earnings per share were flat at 6.8p, while the interim dividend rises to 2.4p (2.3p).

# Airtours buys 29% stake in German firm

By George Sivell

AIRTOURS, the holiday and airline company, has bought a 29.03 per cent interest in the German tour operator Froesch Touristik for an initial DM50 million (£17.24 million). Airtours has an option to acquire the balance in four years' time.

The company's shares responded yesterday with a rise of 27½p to 54½p, a new all-time high.

David Crossland, the chairman of Airtours, said that the agreement gives his company "a low-risk entry into the largest air-inclusive tour operating market in the world". In addition to Airtours' initial payment, Airtours and the shareholders of Froesch Touristik have agreed to invest between DM10 million and DM20 million respectively in loan capital to enable FT to finance its short-term growth.

Airtours said the price of the initial investment may increase up to a maximum of DM110 million dependent upon the achievement of pre-

determined profit targets for the years ending October 31, 1998, and 1999.

Commenting on the option to buy the remainder of Froesch Touristik in 2002, Airtours said it would cost a further DM60 million in cash at that time, with the total consideration then being determined in 2004 by the application of a formula based upon Froesch Touristik's pre-tax profits for the financial years ending 1998, 2001 and 2003, which would give a total price of DM310-910.

Airtours said Froesch Touristik had sales in the year to February 28 of DM1.2 billion, and carried more than one million passengers.

The German operator also sells short-haul holidays, a market segment Airtours thinks has further growth potential.

Airtours said: "Many of FT's destinations are the same as those used by Airtours, giving potential cost savings and synergies."

# Share price remains buoyant at Thistle

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in Thistle Hotels continued their recent strong run yesterday after a positive trading update from Rodney Price, the group's chairman, at its annual meeting.

The shares, languishing at 121p in September, gained a further 2p to 203p after Mr Price said that turnover had reached £57 million in the first 16 weeks of the current year, 6 per cent ahead on a like-for-like basis. Average occupancy was down a point, room rates were 10 per cent up on last year.

The shares have risen steadily in the wake of the departure of Robert Peel after 20 years as chief executive. Ian Burke, the head of Holiday Inn's European operations, was appointed to replace him in April and earlier this month the company was lifted by a "buy" note from Credit Suisse First Boston.

Analysts are watching the management shake-up at Brierley Investments, the New Zealand group with a 46 per cent stake in Thistle. One suggested that Brierley's break-even price of 200p might prompt it to offload its stake.



Rodney Price: positive

# Nomura plans link-up with Japanese bank

By George Sivell

NOMURA, Japan's scandal-hit stockbroker, has revealed plans for an alliance with the Industrial Bank of Japan, the largest lender to the broker, across two areas of business.

Even under Japan's new Big Bang reforms it will not be possible for a bank to own a stockbroker until the year 2001 at the earliest. The deal, however, is the latest in a series of manoeuvres that follow a reform package aimed at decreasing regulation and promoting competition in Japan's financial industry.

Nomura, the largest broker in Japan, and the Industrial Bank of Japan are to set up two jointly owned affiliates, one which specialises in asset management, the other in derivatives. IBJ will also buy half of Nomura's American investment fund operation.

The tie-up is seen by analysts as a forerunner to a closer relationship between the two firms ahead of the expected loosening of policy in 2001. The companies left that possibility open, by say-

# How close to agreeing £46.6m bid by Tilbury

By George Sivell

TILBURY DOUGLAS, the construction services group, has made an agreed £46.6 million cash and share bid for How Group, the facilities management company. Tilbury has received 46.1 per cent acceptances from How shareholders already.

How shares remained unchanged at 103p yesterday although the group had announced during February that it was in takeover talks.

The acquisition will give Tilbury a fourth division, facilities management, as well as adding to the group's other three equipment services, engineering services and construction divisions.

A growing number of companies are contracting out the management of their own buildings.

How made £3.7 million of operating profit on sales of £155 million in the year to the end of December. Net assets have been put at £18.3 million. Trading in the first quarter of the current year was said to have continued at an encouraging level.

How's expertise in engineering, pipelines and railway signalling will be incorporated into the Tilbury Douglas engineering services division, Tilbury said.

Because of its size the deal is subject to approval by Tilbury shareholders.

On current trading Tilbury said that the first quarter had shown further progress in line with expectations. Graham Green, the chairman of How, which is based in West Bromwich, West Midlands, said: "The combined group will offer the How businesses and our employees a good opportunity for growth in a culture which is similar to our own."

ing they are considering other business tie-ups. They added, however, that they have not considered setting up a single holding company.

Last week, Fuji Bank announced a link with Goldman Sachs to develop mutual fund investments for retail sale.

Masao Nishimura, IBJ president, and Junichi Ujiie, Nomura president, said in a joint statement: "We have agreed to forge these alliances in an attempt to offer the best financial service to meet demand from Japanese clients under Japan's Big Bang financial reform."

Mr Nishimura added: "On the question of whether we will have an all-out tie-up or not, it's still a blank sheet."

The companies said the move is aimed at competing with the increasingly aggressive advance of foreign financial institutions in Japan.

The Industrial Bank of Japan is the largest of three Japanese banks specialising in extending long-term credit to industrial enterprises.

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Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ANSOFT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT LAW UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT LIFE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT MEDICAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PROPERTY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ENERGY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT TECHNOLOGY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SOCIAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ETHICAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT GLOBAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ASSET UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT RISK UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT DIVERSITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT BALANCE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT GROWTH UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT INCOME UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT CAPITAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT LIQUIDITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT RESERVE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SAFETY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SECURITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PROTECTION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT DEFENSE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT OFFENSE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT STRATEGY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT TACTICS UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANALYTICS UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT INTELLIGENCE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT OPERATIONS UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT LOGISTICS UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SUPPLY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT DEMAND UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT CUSTOMER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PARTNER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SUPPLIER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT DISTRIBUTOR UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT RETAILER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT WHOLESALE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT MANUFACTURER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SERVICE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SUPPORT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT CONSULTANT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ADVISOR UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT BROKER UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT AGENT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT REPRESENTATIVE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT EMPLOYEE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT CONTRACTOR UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT FREELANCE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT SELF EMPLOYED UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT BUSINESS UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT INDIVIDUAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT FAMILY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PERSONAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PRIVATE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT WEALTH UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT INVESTMENT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PORTFOLIO UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ASSET ALLOCATION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT RISK MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT LIABILITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT EQUITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT DEBT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT HYBRID UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT FIXED INCOME UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT VARIABLE INCOME UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT REAL ESTATE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT PRIVATE EQUITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT VENTURE CAPITAL UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT HEDGE FUND UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT COMMODITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT CRYPTOCURRENCY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ARTS AND CULTURE UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT COLLECTIBLES UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI INFLATION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI RISK UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI VOLATILITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI CRASH UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI RECESSION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI DEPRESSION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI UNEMPLOYMENT UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI INFLATION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI RISK UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI VOLATILITY UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI CRASH UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI RECESSION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI DEPRESSION UNIT TRUST, ANSOFT ANTI UNEMPLOYMENT UNIT TRUST.

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Advertisement for Head and shoulders above the rest. Includes text: 'Head and shoulders above the rest. For further information, please telephone 01344 85555. Packets available in 250g and 500g sizes.' Features an image of a person's head and shoulders.

Vertical banner on the right side of the page with various advertisements including 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES', 'BANKS', 'BREWERIES, PUBS & REST', 'BUILDING MATERIALS', 'CHEMICALS', and 'CONSTRUCTION'.



FRIDAY MAY 14

هكذا من الأصل

# Shares ahead at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
44	42	Alco	42.50	-4.8	10.9
45	43	Alco	43.50	-3.2	10.9
46	44	Alco	44.50	-1.6	10.9
47	45	Alco	45.50	0.0	10.9
48	46	Alco	46.50	1.6	10.9
49	47	Alco	47.50	3.2	10.9
50	48	Alco	48.50	4.8	10.9
51	49	Alco	49.50	6.4	10.9
52	50	Alco	50.50	8.0	10.9
53	51	Alco	51.50	9.6	10.9
54	52	Alco	52.50	11.2	10.9
55	53	Alco	53.50	12.8	10.9
56	54	Alco	54.50	14.4	10.9
57	55	Alco	55.50	16.0	10.9
58	56	Alco	56.50	17.6	10.9
59	57	Alco	57.50	19.2	10.9
60	58	Alco	58.50	20.8	10.9
61	59	Alco	59.50	22.4	10.9
62	60	Alco	60.50	24.0	10.9
63	61	Alco	61.50	25.6	10.9
64	62	Alco	62.50	27.2	10.9
65	63	Alco	63.50	28.8	10.9
66	64	Alco	64.50	30.4	10.9
67	65	Alco	65.50	32.0	10.9
68	66	Alco	66.50	33.6	10.9
69	67	Alco	67.50	35.2	10.9
70	68	Alco	68.50	36.8	10.9
71	69	Alco	69.50	38.4	10.9
72	70	Alco	70.50	40.0	10.9
73	71	Alco	71.50	41.6	10.9
74	72	Alco	72.50	43.2	10.9
75	73	Alco	73.50	44.8	10.9
76	74	Alco	74.50	46.4	10.9
77	75	Alco	75.50	48.0	10.9
78	76	Alco	76.50	49.6	10.9
79	77	Alco	77.50	51.2	10.9
80	78	Alco	78.50	52.8	10.9
81	79	Alco	79.50	54.4	10.9
82	80	Alco	80.50	56.0	10.9
83	81	Alco	81.50	57.6	10.9
84	82	Alco	82.50	59.2	10.9
85	83	Alco	83.50	60.8	10.9
86	84	Alco	84.50	62.4	10.9
87	85	Alco	85.50	64.0	10.9
88	86	Alco	86.50	65.6	10.9
89	87	Alco	87.50	67.2	10.9
90	88	Alco	88.50	68.8	10.9
91	89	Alco	89.50	70.4	10.9
92	90	Alco	90.50	72.0	10.9
93	91	Alco	91.50	73.6	10.9
94	92	Alco	92.50	75.2	10.9
95	93	Alco	93.50	76.8	10.9
96	94	Alco	94.50	78.4	10.9
97	95	Alco	95.50	80.0	10.9
98	96	Alco	96.50	81.6	10.9
99	97	Alco	97.50	83.2	10.9
100	98	Alco	98.50	84.8	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100	98	Alco	98.50	86.4	10.9
101	99	Alco	99.50	88.0	10.9
102	100	Alco	100.50	89.6	10.9
103	101	Alco	101.50	91.2	10.9
104	102	Alco	102.50	92.8	10.9
105	103	Alco	103.50	94.4	10.9
106	104	Alco	104.50	96.0	10.9
107	105	Alco	105.50	97.6	10.9
108	106	Alco	106.50	99.2	10.9
109	107	Alco	107.50	100.8	10.9
110	108	Alco	108.50	102.4	10.9
111	109	Alco	109.50	104.0	10.9
112	110	Alco	110.50	105.6	10.9
113	111	Alco	111.50	107.2	10.9
114	112	Alco	112.50	108.8	10.9
115	113	Alco	113.50	110.4	10.9
116	114	Alco	114.50	112.0	10.9
117	115	Alco	115.50	113.6	10.9
118	116	Alco	116.50	115.2	10.9
119	117	Alco	117.50	116.8	10.9
120	118	Alco	118.50	118.4	10.9
121	119	Alco	119.50	120.0	10.9
122	120	Alco	120.50	121.6	10.9
123	121	Alco	121.50	123.2	10.9
124	122	Alco	122.50	124.8	10.9
125	123	Alco	123.50	126.4	10.9
126	124	Alco	124.50	128.0	10.9
127	125	Alco	125.50	129.6	10.9
128	126	Alco	126.50	131.2	10.9
129	127	Alco	127.50	132.8	10.9
130	128	Alco	128.50	134.4	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
130	128	Alco	128.50	136.0	10.9
131	129	Alco	129.50	137.6	10.9
132	130	Alco	130.50	139.2	10.9
133	131	Alco	131.50	140.8	10.9
134	132	Alco	132.50	142.4	10.9
135	133	Alco	133.50	144.0	10.9
136	134	Alco	134.50	145.6	10.9
137	135	Alco	135.50	147.2	10.9
138	136	Alco	136.50	148.8	10.9
139	137	Alco	137.50	150.4	10.9
140	138	Alco	138.50	152.0	10.9
141	139	Alco	139.50	153.6	10.9
142	140	Alco	140.50	155.2	10.9
143	141	Alco	141.50	156.8	10.9
144	142	Alco	142.50	158.4	10.9
145	143	Alco	143.50	160.0	10.9
146	144	Alco	144.50	161.6	10.9
147	145	Alco	145.50	163.2	10.9
148	146	Alco	146.50	164.8	10.9
149	147	Alco	147.50	166.4	10.9
150	148	Alco	148.50	168.0	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
150	148	Alco	148.50	169.6	10.9
151	149	Alco	149.50	171.2	10.9
152	150	Alco	150.50	172.8	10.9
153	151	Alco	151.50	174.4	10.9
154	152	Alco	152.50	176.0	10.9
155	153	Alco	153.50	177.6	10.9
156	154	Alco	154.50	179.2	10.9
157	155	Alco	155.50	180.8	10.9
158	156	Alco	156.50	182.4	10.9
159	157	Alco	157.50	184.0	10.9
160	158	Alco	158.50	185.6	10.9
161	159	Alco	159.50	187.2	10.9
162	160	Alco	160.50	188.8	10.9
163	161	Alco	161.50	190.4	10.9
164	162	Alco	162.50	192.0	10.9
165	163	Alco	163.50	193.6	10.9
166	164	Alco	164.50	195.2	10.9
167	165	Alco	165.50	196.8	10.9
168	166	Alco	166.50	198.4	10.9
169	167	Alco	167.50	200.0	10.9
170	168	Alco	168.50	201.6	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
170	168	Alco	168.50	203.2	10.9
171	169	Alco	169.50	204.8	10.9
172	170	Alco	170.50	206.4	10.9
173	171	Alco	171.50	208.0	10.9
174	172	Alco	172.50	209.6	10.9
175	173	Alco	173.50	211.2	10.9
176	174	Alco	174.50	212.8	10.9
177	175	Alco	175.50	214.4	10.9
178	176	Alco	176.50	216.0	10.9
179	177	Alco	177.50	217.6	10.9
180	178	Alco	178.50	219.2	10.9
181	179	Alco	179.50	220.8	10.9
182	180	Alco	180.50	222.4	10.9
183	181	Alco	181.50	224.0	10.9
184	182	Alco	182.50	225.6	10.9
185	183	Alco	183.50	227.2	10.9
186	184	Alco	184.50	228.8	10.9
187	185	Alco	185.50	230.4	10.9
188	186	Alco	186.50	232.0	10.9
189	187	Alco	187.50	233.6	10.9
190	188	Alco	188.50	235.2	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
190	188	Alco	188.50	236.8	10.9
191	189	Alco	189.50	238.4	10.9
192	190	Alco	190.50	240.0	10.9
193	191	Alco	191.50	241.6	10.9
194	192	Alco	192.50	243.2	10.9
195	193	Alco	193.50	244.8	10.9
196	194	Alco	194.50	246.4	10.9
197	195	Alco	195.50	248.0	10.9
198	196	Alco	196.50	249.6	10.9
199	197	Alco	197.50	251.2	10.9
200	198	Alco	198.50	252.8	10.9
201	199	Alco	199.50	254.4	10.9
202	200	Alco	200.50	256.0	10.9
203	201	Alco	201.50	257.6	10.9
204	202	Alco	202.50	259.2	10.9
205	203	Alco	203.50	260.8	10.9
206	204	Alco	204.50	262.4	10.9
207	205	Alco	205.50	264.0	10.9
208	206	Alco	206.50	265.6	10.9
209	207	Alco	207.50	267.2	10.9
210	208	Alco	208.50	268.8	10.9

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
210	208	Alco	208.50	270.4	10.9
211	209	Alco	209.50	272.0	10.9
212	210	Alco	210.50	273.6	10.9
213	211	Alco	211.50	275.2	10.9
214					







NEW MOVIES: A comet is heading towards a cataclysmic contact with Earth in *Deep Impact*. Geoff Brown ducks

# The End is nigh unbelievable

**D**eep Impact, the season's first popcorn blockbuster, features Robert Duvall, Tea Leoni, Elijah Wood, Morgan Freeman and Vanessa Redgrave. But the star that matters is seven miles long, 500 billion tons in weight and larger than Mount Everest. These are the dimensions of the comet hurtling straight towards North America. An ELE - Extinction Level Event - is imminent. What to do?

In the old days, Clark Kent would zoom off as Superman to save the planet. But this lavish venture of Paramount Pictures and Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks empire tries to take matters seriously. So they hire Mimi Leder, the director of *The Peacemaker*. Robert Duvall is sent out in a rocket, equipped with a gung-ho crew and a copy of *Moby Dick*, to deflect the comet by dropping warheads on its gnarled, toxic surface. This is called the Messiah Mission; unfortunately it doubles the threat by breaking the comet's head in two.

Still, the film-makers have other ammunition. Since we need a female star, a television anchorwoman is on hand to look concerned and pretty: Enter Leoni, a TV face in real life. A President is required, too: so up steps Freeman, America's first black President, to tell the nation about contingency plans and praying to God. And since the kids must be entertained, Elijah Wood, as a high school astronomy buff who took the very first picture of the comet, is roped in to experience puppy love just as the world is about to end. Above all, the special effects army is mobilised: the wire effects technicians, the computer graphics supervisors, all listed on the end credits' roll of honour.

The one weapon neglected is the usual one in disaster romps - the script. Two notable writers have their names attached: Michael Tolkin, who wrote *The Player*, and Bruce Joel Rubin, who wrote *Ghost*. But their imaginations seem cowed. Dialogue lacks zing. Characters lack substance. Up in the rocket with Duvall, nothing but clichés circulate; down on Earth, vacuity strikes the teenage lovers. Only Leoni's anchorwoman seems more than cardboard as she swirls around Washington DC, feasting on the scoop of the century and fretting over her separated parents (Maximilian Schell and Redgrave).

But one TV anchorwoman can scarcely keep a whole film alive. And the special effects, when they arrive, are never cataclysmic enough to give the wallop *Deep Impact* needs. Maybe that will follow in Hollywood's second end-of-the-world fantasia, *Armageddon*, due later this summer, featuring Bruce Willis and another comet hurtling towards Earth. For now, disaster fanciers must mark time with this well-packaged, silly movie. A misnamed movie, too, for there's no deep impact, just a light graze.

*Live Flesh*, on the other hand, leaves a strong imprint. The director is Pedro Almodóvar, Spain's ruling cinema iconoclast, although the film's surface is unusually stripped of the expected camp adornments, the high fashions and eye-popping furnishings. The material, moreover, is not his own: he is adapting a novel by Ruth Rendell, one of our own queens of crime. Yet there is nothing anonymous about this full-blooded, constantly surprising thriller. As in any Almodóvar film, the characters are swept away by their hormones and, if their clothing seems sober, the riot of



Goodbye, New York: a comet-induced tidal wave threatens to turn the Big Apple into the Big Soup in Mimi Leder's apocalyptic special-effects spectacular, *Deep Impact*

- Deep Impact**  
Empire, 12, 121 mins  
End of the world proves rather a yawn
- Live Flesh**  
Curzon West End  
18, 99 mins  
Succulent thriller from Pedro Almodóvar
- Wild Things**  
Odeon West End  
18, 111 mins  
Outrageous and sexy thriller
- The Man Who Knew Too Little**  
Warner West End  
12, 94 mins  
Bill Murray hits London
- Liar**  
Odeon Kensington  
18, 102 mins  
Style replaces substance
- The Kingdom II**  
ICA Cinema, 295 mins  
Another helping of Lars Von Trier's soap opera

thicker still, twisting around the characters like a rampant vine. Secrets are spilt, liaisons struck, bullets fired, all in the name of love and desire. Almodóvar's cast never shrinks from acting outrageously. Liberté Rabal is fine as the free-wheeling Victor and Javier Bardem makes much of the macho David, cut down to size in his wheelchair. The women, Francesca Neri and Angela Molina, are equally charismatic. Whatever the emotions, whatever the plot's crazy turns, Almodóvar always makes us believe; in this sense, *Live Flesh* demonstrates the power of cinema better than any other film this week.

The plot wriggles in *Wild Things as well, although we are not invited to take things very seriously. The setting is the morose, sun-kissed community of Blue Bay, Florida. Schoolgirls flaunt their attributes; country club types misbehave behind curtains - and not all the alligators lurk in swamps.*

Temperatures rise higher than usual when Matt Dillon's school counsellor is accused of rape by a pupil whose advances are ignored even when she wears a wet T-shirt. The fun rises too, once Dillon enlists the only lawyer he can afford: this is sleazy Bill Murray, decorated with a medical collar for the purposes of insurance fraud.

Then a cop (Kevin Bacon) starts sniffing round the case and, just when the plot can twist no more, it ties itself in new knots. This is not the film you expect John McNaughton to direct; his name has been made with dark tales of serial killers and suburban trash, such as *Henry* and *Normal Life*. But he revels in this new

adventure, and propels Stephen Peters's eccentric script at the dangerous speed it deserves. Denise Richards and Neve Campbell, heroines of *Starship Troopers* and *Scream*, act wonderfully convincing and sluttish. Theresa Russell struts. Robert Wagner purrs with venom. Everyone clearly had a ball, and audiences should follow suit.

Murray also appears in *The Man Who Knew Too Little*, a British-made comedy. In fact he is the star attraction, although the number of laughs he pulls from the script is not very high. The film's troubles start with the basic set-up. Murray, in London for a birthday celebration with his brother, is given a ticket to the Theatre of Life, an exercise in participation theatre involving an audience of one. But instead of joining the acting troupe he gets mistaken for a hired killer in an assassination plot. No matter how many bullets fly, Murray the blustering innocent believes everything is meant in play.

This plot wheeze may have passed muster 50 years ago - you can imagine Bob Hope in the title role - but is not viable on the threshold of the new millennium. The more the situation is elaborated, the more strained and outdated the jokes appear. Aside from Murray, this redundant movie wastes the time of Peter Gallagher, Joanne Whalley, TV sourpuss Richard Wilson and the director, Jon Amiel.

You know you are in for trouble when the camera favishes a close-up on a sugar cube's descent into a cup of coffee. This happens in *Liar*, the latest American independent film to chase style rather than substance. The camera also tracks hither and yon over the wide screen, and adopts

the most perilous angles. When an Almodóvar plays such tricks, emotional reverberations follow. This does not happen with the twin brothers Paté, Jonas and Joshua. An arrogant scion of Charleston, South Carolina, sits hooked up to a polygraph machine, suspected of a prostitute's murder. He suffers memory lapses, but is canny

enough to use knowledge of his interrogators' foibles to turn the tables. Intriguing? Mildly. Then boredom sets in as the game is played out, with little humour to puncture the film's pretensions. Michael Rooker and Chris Penn play the detectives; Tim Roth is the suspect.

The camera also acts strangely in *The Kingdom II*,

zooming along the crazy corridors of the Copenhagen hospital celebrated in Lars Von Trier's spoof TV soap opera. The second series offers greater absurdities than before, although the grainy, bleached images and eccentric performances follow the established style. *Rabid Kingdom* fans will need no prodding to spend five hours in the dark.

## SNAP VERDICT

### 'Choke back the tears'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

**DEEP IMPACT**  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: I went in expecting a movie laden with special effects but got an intelligent, emotional film. I had to choke back the tears.

**Carl Clark, 19:** A Hollywood film that doesn't sell out: a heart-breaker, not a block-buster.

**Emma Rolph, 19:** An extremely intense movie with a particularly fine performance from Tea Leoni.

**Laura Brook, 19:** Really moving: I was not prepared for its emotional impact. This is a film with a real heart.

**LIVE FLESH**  
Leslie Arty, but accessible. The camera paints the most extraordinary images.

**Carl:** European Art House mixed with a little bit of *Carry On*. A very quirky movie.

**Emma:** The nudity was gratuitous, but what a great film. *Laura*: A unique movie that will keep your interest going - more or less - for the full hour and a half.

**LIAR**  
Leslie: I'd be a liar if I said this was good.

**Carl:** A clever independent movie that tries a little too hard. Tim Roth was ace.

**Emma:** An original but over-complicated film. A movie with too many good ideas, basically.

**Laura:** Renee Zellweger, last seen in *Jerry Maguire*, is wasted in this pretentious rubbish.

"...a masterpiece... see it and make up your own mind."

The Mirror SIMON ROSE

"...prepare to be stunned..."

The Daily Star ALAN FRANK

"...best film so far this year..."

Harpers & Queen HUGO WILLIAMS

"...Irons and Swain are superb..."

Total Film ANDY LOWE

JEREMY IRONS

MELANIE GRIFFITH

FRANK LANGELLA

# Lolita



MARCO KASSAR, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ADRIAN LYNE. CASTING: JUDITHA MAMONSKY. COSTUME DESIGNER: DAVID BRENNER. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JON HILTMAN, EDWARD ATTERTON. PRODUCED BY: VLADIMIR NAKHODIN. WRITTEN BY: STEPHEN SCOFF. STARRING: JEREMY IRONS, MELANIE GRIFFITH, FRANK LANGELLA, "LOLITA", DOMINIQUE SWAIN, STEPHAN R. GOLDMAN, AND DANIO AMBROSCIO.

NOW PLAYING AT STARTS TOMORROW AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

CHECK PRESS FOR DETAILS

## A plot no more than skin-deep

NEW ON VIDEO

**FACE/OFF**  
*Buena Vista, 18, 1997*  
A TERRORIST (Nicolas Cage) threatens to "unleash the biblical plague that LA deserves". But when and where? In order to find out, John Travolta's FBI agent lands Cage in hospital, gets himself surgically altered to resemble his enemy and moves undetected among Cage's associates. Cage then wakes from his coma, purloins Travolta's facial skin and occupies his office, house and shoes. Believable? Not a bit of it. At first director John Woo's famous flamboyance, two charismatic stars and the pyrotechnics keep one entertained. But it takes much stamina to watch two hours of brazen rubbish. A rental release.

**THE DEVIL AND MISS JONES**  
*4 Front, U, 1941*  
ON TAKING a clerk's job in his own department store, pompous moneybags Charles Coburn learns the delights of Jean Arthur, Spring Byington, tuna fish sandwiches and

labour relations. Delightful stuff, attractively played, and amusingly written by Norman Krasna, a specialist in romantic comedy with a satirical edge.

**G.I. JANE**  
*First Independent, 15, 1997*  
LIKE or hate Demi Moore, you cannot ignore her, least of all when she becomes a guinea pig in the equal opportunities debate and undergoes basic training with the elite combat unit, the Navy SEALs. Can a woman survive a schedule that turns even macho men to jelly? Demi tries very hard, does one-handed press-ups, and shaves her hair to nothing. Ridley Scott films it all

with his usual machine-tooled precision, steering clear of subtlety, humour and compassion. Arne Bancroft enjoys her role as the Washington senator who starts the whole ball rolling. Available to rent.

**JOHNS**  
*Metrodome, 18, 1996*  
INTERESTING American independent movie that follows the fortunes of Los Angeles male hustlers one Christmas Eve. Drug use is soft-pedalled and some details smack more of scriptwriting tricks than real life. But Scott Silver's film is valuable for its touching portrayal of male friendship and the urge to survive. The actors, too, make the best of

things. Sometimes awkward in adult roles, Lukas Haas brings a sweet naivety to his hustler, while David Arquette is fresh and forceful. The title refers to the characters' first names: nothing else.

**WILDE**  
*PolyGram, 15, 1997*  
CONSIDERING the changes in social attitudes since the last Wilde films in 1960, Brian Gilbert's film treats sexual matters timidly, and never makes much headway exploring the attraction between Wilde and the destructive Lord Alfred Douglas (Jude Law). Still, Stephen Fry's performance is fine within the script's limits: he particularly impresses in quieter moments exploring the contradictions of Oscar the family man. If only the film could probe more and avoid the aura of yet another British costume piece full of bustling crowds, clip-clopping horses, fine buildings and handsome cabs. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



LISTINGS

Major Barbara opens

LONDON

THE CRAMPS: Ten albums and 22 years later... THE CRAMPS: Ten albums and 22 years later...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

GLASGOW

Liverpool: Errol Brown, the ageing face of Sevens... Glasgow: Love, Lies, Bleeding...

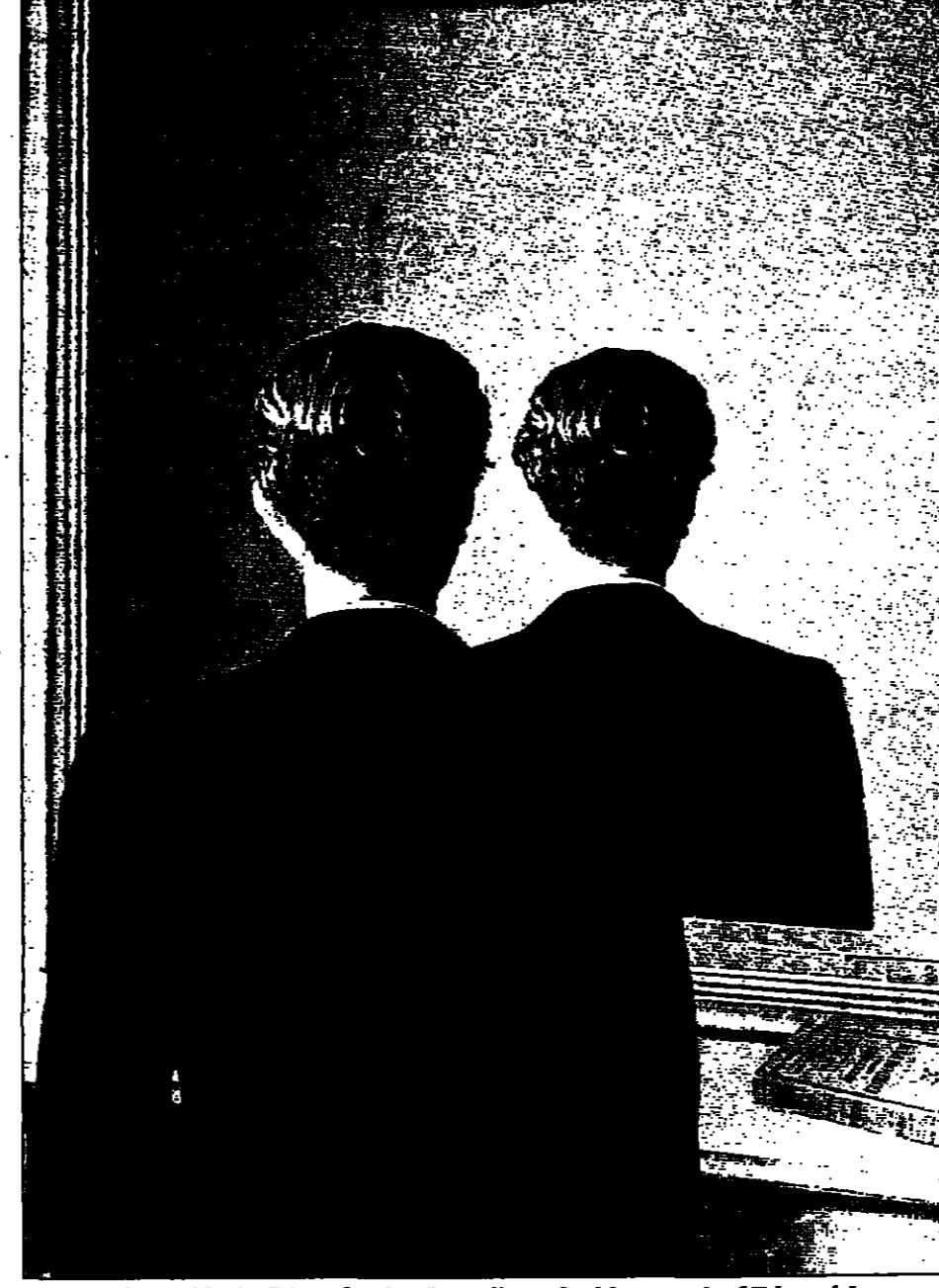
LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: The Print in Stuart Britain 1603-1689... Museum of London: The Life and Times of William Turner...

The Brighton Festival is celebrating one of the great art patrons.

John Russell Taylor reports

It is always difficult to place an impresario in the artistic hierarchy... The Brighton Festival is celebrating one of the great art patrons.



Magritte's 1937 La Reproduction Interdite: a double portrait of Edward James

Chequebook surrealism

She was clearly impossible, and he seems to have been largely homosexual... Magritte's 1937 La Reproduction Interdite...

GALLERIES

Brighton goes surreal

Nasty pieces of work

Steve, Mark and Reece are three very nice boys... Nasty pieces of work

STOCKHOLM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: A rare appearance by the acclaimed parent and recording artist Christian Zacherus with the Stockholm Chamber Orchestra...

ELSEWHERE: BRISTOL: Arnold Ridley's cheeky character... THE CRAMPS: Ten albums and 22 years later...

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (R): The Coen brothers' put together a disaffected spoof on Raymond Chandler's famous thrillers... THE HANGING GARDEN (R): Gay man returns home to find a house full of intruders...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoffrey Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol ( ) on release across the country

LONG RUNNERS

Buddy: Standoff (R) (11) 930 8000... Sweet Charity: The 1967, revised with Bonnie Langford and Mark Wynn...

MY SON THE FANATIC (R)

Featuring multi-cultural comedy-drama from Hollywood's most successful Asian filmmaker... My Son the Fanatic

SLIDING DOORS (R)

Sacked PR Gwyneth Paltrow finds love and boyfriends; or does she? Pleasant romantic comedy, less complex than Josephine's... Sliding Doors

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (R)

Obsessive-compulsive Jack Nicholson tries to become a better person... As Good as It Gets

WILD MAN BLUES (R)

Exciting documentary portrait of Woody Allen... Wild Man Blues

ART GALLERIES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PORTRAIT PAINTERS: Annual Exhibition 7-25 July... THE HANGING GARDEN (R): Gay man returns home to find a house full of intruders...

THEATRES

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BROADWAY PIZZAZZ advertisement with logo and contact info.

APOLLO VICTORIA advertisement for 'THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND'.

DOMINION advertisement for 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'.

LYRIC advertisement for 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'.

PALACE THEATRE advertisement for 'LES MISERABLES'.

PRINCE OF WALES advertisement for 'SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE'.

VALDEVILLE THEATRE advertisement for 'KAT & THE KINGS'.

STRAIGHT THEATRE advertisement for 'BUDDY'.

WINDHAM advertisement for 'ART'.

Large advertisement for 'MONSTERS' featuring '298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 TIMES A YEAR...'.

Large advertisement for 'Pretty big ha not' featuring 'Rare Mozart rec' and 'POP: Forget the Nash taking a turn for the...'.



CLASSICAL CDS Rare Mozart recorded

Pretty boys in big hats need not apply

POP: Forget the Nashville pin-ups. Country music is taking a turn for the darker, as Paul Sexton reports

For the most part, it's true, country music continues to be about hats and honkytonks and good ole boys and standing by your man. But round the fringes a new strain of talent is emerging across America — a younger generation of American country performers that keeps a studied distance from the Nashville conveyor belt.

The inevitable search for a label for this freshly discovered strain includes such terms as Americana, alternative country, insurgent country and No Depression, also the name of one of the growing number of periodicals and fanzines dedicated to the form. Of course, in true Groucho style, Whiskeytown and other exponents such as the Handsome Family, Willard Grant Conspiracy and Tom Leach have little desire to be members of a club that has chosen them as honorary members.

"This isn't necessarily anything new," says Leach, whose garage-country style made its opening bow on his self-titled debut set for the Chicago-based Slow River label. "It's more like people have found a label for it. Neil Young was doing it 20 years ago. But if it helps get the music on the road, I'll gladly wear the label."

The gritty, rural realism of Leach and others is, in spirit, like punk without the gobbling. Its sound, meanwhile, is country music without its make-up on, and stands as a humble vote of thanks to pioneers such as Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family and Hank Williams, artists whose legacy American country radio chooses to ignore. It is a musical alternative with rapidly expanding British support. Labels such as Slow River, Bloodshot and Loose Sounds now have regular releases here, while club nights in London such as Nashville Babylon and Twist-

ed AM are bringing the artists to our stages. Such evenings have little to do with making the scene or looking the part. "People who come to Nashville Babylon are more likely to be wearing sneakers than cowboy boots," says Tom Bridgewater, who stages the events once every three weeks or so. Bridgewater, who also runs Loose Sounds and its older-brother label, Vinyl Junkie, enjoys an unfashionably friendly symbi-

Germans get the black humour, you can crack 'em up

osis with the organisers of its supposed rival, Twisted AM, which takes place monthly at Brady's Saloon in Brixton.

"People sometimes say the alternative country scene is a bit miserabilist," says Bridgewater, "but it's only in the tradition of real country music. We can tell the fakers a mile away, and we don't like them. It's a reaction against the twats in hats, as we call them. The pretty boys with good teeth and tight jeans who are all trying to sound like Merle Haggard."

Whiskeytown, from Raleigh in North Carolina, have struggled their mixture of town and country ingredients into a major-label setting, their outstanding *Strangers Almanac* released on Outpost via Geffen. The band is fronted by the magnetic Ryan Adams, whose stage persona combines the glamour of Marc Bolan, the pirate spirit of Keith Richards and the punk snarl of Johnny Thunders. He is the

very antithesis of the current Nashville poster boy.

"If I were writing a song about my hometown or family," says Adams, "then I would be pulling out experiences from my past, and the guitar would try and start sounding like home. Since I'm from North Carolina, that would eventually lead to the song sounding a bit country, because that's the music that best describes the place and mood."

Two recent compilations that present a useful starting point for the virgin explorer are *Viva Americana* on Boka, featuring such redoubtable troubadours as Terry Allen and Kieran Kane, and *Loose — New Sounds Of The Old West*, with beguiling newcomers like Red Star Belgrade, the Bonnevilles and Richmond Fontaine.

Loose also recently released the darkly enchanting *Through The Trees* by the Handsome Family, the Chicago-based husband and wife team of Bret and Rennie Sparks. Their beautifully sparse and poignant compositions exude a combination of rustic sincerity and murky realism of which Tom Waits or Nick Cave would be proud.

Rennie's lyrics, as on *My Sister's Tiny Hands*, are fragile, wistful narratives: "We came into this world together, legs wrapped around each other... we lived along the river where the black clouds never lingered... but, while picking sour apples in the wild waving grasses, sister stumbled in a briar and was bitten by a snake... alone, I took to drinking bottles of cheap whiskey and staggering through the back woods, killing snakes with a sharp stick." "A lot of people say things like 'You're so depressing,' especially in the United States," says Bret. "We're big in Germany, oddly enough. I think they get the black humour, you can crack 'em up. We

ARTS



Chicago's Rennie and Brett Sparks, aka the Handsome Family, epitomise the new rustic sincerity and murky realism

listen to the music of the Carter Family and the Louvin Brothers, which was not all the time too rosy, there was a lot of death and doom and gloom in there." Adds Rennie with a smile: "It's a strange feeling for me as a Jew from New York, being surrounded

by Germans wanting to hug me. Lyrically, I'm always interested in opposites and paradox, which Americans don't tend to like, they want things resolved. Was that happy or sad? Tell me, am I supposed to laugh or cry?" If the artists of this uncon-

sious movement are unified in anything, it is likely to be in their record collections. There, for Whiskeytown's Ryan Adams, the conviction of the unreconstituted outsider remains intact. "If somebody you know tells you they got a great record collection," he

advises, "and they don't own a Stones album, a Gram record, or a Johnny Thunders bootleg, shoot 'em." Nashville Babylon takes place regularly at the 12 Bar Club, Denmark Place, WC2, and Twisted AM at Brady's Saloon, 20 Atlantic Road, SW9

OPERA

Verdi in the Albert Hall

Softly softly superb

Fewer and fewer allowances need to be made for "arena opera" or the technology is tamed and unfamiliar spaces are intelligently used. By any standards and regardless of circumstances, Tuesday's performance of *Traviata* by the Royal Opera at the Albert Hall was absolutely first-rate. The mysteries of "sound enhancement" are indeed arcane: it is enough to say that the distortion that occasionally disfigured the RO's *Otello* last year was notable by its absence, and the singers were able to follow Verdi's instructions about soft singing more faithfully than is often the case in ordinary opera houses, remaining easily audible.

The disposition of the stage helped. What was left of Bob

OPERA

La traviata Albert Hall

Crowley's decor — just the circular acting area — was thrust right into the arena, with the orchestra in a crescent in front of it and gauzy curtains behind. The singers were right there among us. The absence of decor helped to concentrate the mind on Richard Eyre's sensible production, still a little soft-edged, and oddly so for a director who so memorably found the anger and disgust in the Victor Hugo play that inspired *Rigoletto* at the NT. *Traviata* can, should be equally angry. But simply as use of space, this worked extremely well.

And the first of three casts being fielded over ten performances was superb. The tiny, waif-like Elena Kelessidi first sang Violetta here two years ago. Her youthful soprano remains beautifully pure, and there is now an edge to it when needed — her coloratura is as grand as it is accurate. Inevitably her interpretation has deepened: she gave Germont *père* as good as she got, shooting him a couple of dirty looks that would have felled a man less confident of his moral certainties.

The RO debut of the Argentinian tenor Marcelo Alvarez (Alfredo) was simply sensational. Beautiful, glowing golden tone, inspired musicianship, vivid response to words: he should have a preservation order slapped on him immediately — it would be tragic if talent of this order were to fall into the wrong hands. Add the most musical of today's Verdi baritones, Vladimir Chernov (Germont), and you have real vocal riches: the supporting cast was flawless.

Simone Young made no concessions to the space — some fast speeds were near-incoherent — and she tends towards extremes of tempo. But her conducting had energy and momentum and the orchestra played wonderfully. All in all, an extraordinary achievement.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RODNEY MILNES

So do they get away? Or will the two harem slaves be held hostage forever? Or will there be a shoot-out at dawn? *Zaide* is an escape opera in which no one ever knows whether or not freedom is gained; and no one ever will.

Mozart started writing it in order to secure a position in Vienna. But *Zaide* was too serious for the fun-loving Viennese. Besides, Mozart was already busy with *Idomeneo*, and would soon be working it all out at greater length in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. *Zaide* was abandoned.

This unfinished opera has in recent years proved irresistible to literati as well as musical sleuths. The German poet Hans Magnus Enzensberger made his own completion and, most seductively of all, Italo Calvino worked his magic in an adaptation in which a mosaic of possibilities is glimpsed through the prism of his unique imagination.

But *Zaide* is seldom trusted out on its own. And until now, it has never been recorded on period instruments. Paul Goodwin, early oboe specialist and associate conductor of the Academy of Ancient Music, has just released a new *Zaide*, recorded live from a concert performance given at the Théâtre de Poissy: no staging, no costumes, no hypotheses. "I just felt that people needed to sit down and listen without distraction to 15 numbers of exquisite music. And there's enough story for audiences to use their own imagination to supply the rest."

The palette of instruments provided by the AAM — the

Out of the harem

trumpets which roar through Soliman's "lion" aria, and the oboe which threads its way through Gornatz's dreams of his beloved *Zaide*. And Goodwin was every bit as meticulous in selecting his vocal palette.

"*Zaide* is no vulnerable innocent. As her great aria has it, she's a tiger, sharpening her claws and rejoking over her prey. I knew Lynne Dawson could deliver the goods."

"I only take on projects I'm really passionate about. And in this one I'm particularly passionate about the melodramas." These are the dramatic

Hilary Finch listens to the first 'authentic' recording of Mozart's *Zaide*

monologues declaimed over tense bursts of orchestral writing: an avant-garde genre with which Mozart became acquainted through hearing Franz Benda's *Medea* in Mannheim in 1778, but to which he never returned. "Hans Peter Blochwitz, our

tenor who plays the captured hero, spent time with an actor, working on his opening melodrama. The intensity of this monologue says a lot about Mozart's own frustrations, imprisoned in provincial Salzburg, slaving under the constraints of his father's impossible expectations and the Archbishop's despotism."

Goodwin feels passionately that the early music movement is a 20th-century movement. "We can bury ourselves in treatises and find good historical reasons for doing things. But ultimately, all we're doing is backing up our own philosophy of life. Early music represents us today.

That's why it's so popular." Goodwin therefore finds it logical to have new music written for period instruments, and hopes to commission a work for the AAM annually. To mark its 25th anniversary the orchestra premieres John Tavener's *Eternity's Sunrise* at the City of London Festival, and records it for Harmonia Mundi.

"Tavener told me he'd never really listened to any early instruments. When he did, he was absolutely thrilled. *Eternity's Sunrise* is stunning. William Blake for Baroque orchestra, Patricia Rozario, and a whole set of handbells!"

Mozart's *Zaide* is on Harmonia Mundi HMU 907205 £15.99. Tavener's *Eternity's Sunrise* will be performed on July 1 at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, London EC4 (071-638 8891)

Brahms'n'psalms

There cannot be many conductors who could take over Kodály's *Psalms Hungaricus* from the indisposed Jiri Belohlávek, as András Ligeti did with the BBC Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday, and direct it, from memory, with such empathetic flair. But the flip side was that we had to endure first a rather ramshackle performance of Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1 in D Minor.

There were places in the latter when Ligeti seemed barely in control: fudged entries, lack of rapport between the soloist (Stephen Kovacevich) and orchestra and a general sense of unease. It is always a joy, of course, to hear Kovacevich in Brahms, and despite the difficulties he maintained his usual aristocratic posture. Indeed, there were moments in the Adagio when the serenity of his playing almost redeemed the performance. But the best that can be said about the outer movements was that they made up in vigour what they lacked in subtlety.

Next came Liszt's tone poem *Les Préludes*, substituted for the scheduled *Hamlet*. *Les Préludes*, with its big tune and brash percussion, lies perilously close to the borders of vulgarity but, warming to the idealism of his compatriot, Ligeti elicited more of a personal reading of the work than he had of the Brahms. But it was the psalm setting of the 20th-century Hungarian Zoltán Kodály that drew the finest performance. The context of the composition of *Psalms Hungaricus* — it was written for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the union of Buda, Obuda and Pest in 1923 — resulted in a work that was not purely religious but which had nationalistic overtones. King David's lament over the treachery and division besetting his country can easily be read, especially in Mihály Vég's paraphrase, as an allegory for more recent times, and the tenor soloist, Julian Gavin, brought ideal passion

CONCERT BBCSO/Ligeti Festival Hall

and fervour to bear. His commitment was matched by that of the BBC Symphony Chorus, and Ligeti drew together all the strands of a score of spellbinding beauty.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RODNEY MILNES

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Odd couple's choices, and delicious Danish pastries

OPERA John Higgins

OLGA BORODINA AND DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY Arias and duets ECO/Summers Philips 454 439-2 \*\* £15.49 THIS disc is close cousin to the concert programme the Russian mezzo and baritone toured around Europe a year ago. The operatic repertoire is not exactly strewn with pieces for this voice combination, but the choice of items then as now seems a bit bizarre. None of three items from Rossini's *Barbiere* suggests

that these two singers are natural comedians. Hvorostovsky tries too hard; Borodina has trouble with Rossini's runs. A second trio from Donizetti's *La favorite* finds them on much firmer ground. Borodina brings an old-style opulence to *O mio Fernando* which recalls the likes of Simonato and Cossotto, although purists will object that she insists on singing in Italian rather than French. As of course they did. Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride* brings both back to home ground and finds them in stirring voice. But the final duet, the plot between the High Priest and Dalila in Saint-Saëns's opera, is a dour

way in which to end a recital. Patrick Summers and the ECO are considerate accompanists. The Philips booklet is comprehensive but well nigh illegible.

Barry Millington

JACOB GADE Jealousy: Suites, Tangos and Waltzes Odense SO/Aeschbacher Dacapo 8.224090 \*\*\* £14.49 NOW that everybody's doing the tango, it could only be a matter of time before someone resurrected the most famous of them all — *Jealousy* — as

popularised by Arthur Fiedler's Boston Pops Orchestra and later Vera Lynn. The composer was a Dane called Jacob Gade (not to be confused with Mendelssohn's contemporary, Niels Gade) and Dacapo has here put together a very attractive disc of his music in its series "Danish light music". In addition to *Jealousy* (subtitled "Tango 'Tsigane'") there are other full-orchestra waltzes such as *Copenhagen Life* and *Valse Capriccio*, and another exotic tango called *Romanesca*. The ballet suite *Leda and the Swan* is more of a tone poem, with a conclusion of grand sentiment beautifully delivered by the Odense Symphony Orchestra under Matthias Aeschbacher. But my favourite is a lovely little waltz called *Douces Secrets*. Tender, intimate, touching, it rounds off an irresistible selection.

\* Worth hearing \*\* Worth considering \*\*\* Worth buying

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

Advertisement for 'The Fairy Queen' by Purcell. It features a photograph of a woman in a white dress and a man in a dark suit. Text includes: 'It's a stunning, extremely sexy piece of music theatre, full of joy, revelry and magic' and 'Simply the sexiest, most heady and retraining diversion on offer'. Performance dates: May 19 | 21, 23 | 27 at 7.30pm, May 16 at 6.30pm. Tickets from £5. Box Office 0171 632 8300.

Advertisement for 'MONSTERS OF GRACE' by Robert Wilson and Philip Glass. It features a photograph of a man in a dark suit. Text includes: 'THE HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN', 'A FUSION OF 21ST CENTURY FILM TECHNOLOGY AND 18TH CENTURY LOVE SONGS', and 'Barbican Centre Box Office 0171 638 8891'.











# Flexibility in youth sentencing

Regina v B (Young offender: Sentencing powers)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brian Smedley and Mr Justice Thomas

[Reasons May 6]

Giving effect to the welfare principle embodied in section 44 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and the flexibility afforded by section 53 thereof in the sentencing of young offenders, the word "suitable" on a proper construction of section 53(3) was not confined to the context of length of sentence.

Accordingly, the court might sentence an offender aged 15 to detention for two years or less under the 1933 Act on the ground it was of opinion that none of the other methods in which the case might legally be dealt with was suitable.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when giving reasons for allowing an appeal by B from Judge Ballock who, at Croydon Crown Court, on her pleas of guilty to four counts of robbery and one count of assault with intent to rob, had sentenced her to two years detention in a young offender institution. On April 7 the court had substituted an order that she be detained under section 53(2) and (3).

The offences committed by D, who was 15 at the date of conviction, fell within the scope of section 53(2) and (3). Following sentence she had applied to the judge to substitute an order under that section on the ground that, if he adopted that course, she would be sent to a secure accommodation unit with a therapeutic rather than

a punitive regime. The reports before the judge and on the appeal indicated that such a regime was the most suitable for B and that a place was available for her at the unit if an order under the 1933 Act were made. The judge declined to vary his order on the ground that "suitable" applied to length of sentence.

Mr Graham Cooke for D; Mr David Perry for the Crown. THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge's approach undoubtedly reflected the view traditionally taken by the courts of section 53(2) and (3).

Although the categories of case to which the provision applied had been substantially widened in recent years, it was still confined in its application to the most serious offences, other than murder. The provision was understood to exist so as to provide for a term of custody in the most serious cases longer than that permissible under ordinary provisions for detention in a young offender institution: see *R v AM* (The Times December 11, 1997; [1998] 1 WLR 363, 368).

It was plain that that was the only permissible construction of section 53(3) if it was open to a court to make an order under the subsection even though the detention was for a period no longer than that for which the offender could be sentenced to detention in a young offender institution, provided that the court was of opinion that none of the other methods in which the case might legally be dealt with, including detention in a young offender institution, was suitable.

Such a construction gave effect to the important welfare principle embodied in section 44. It was, arguably, anomalous that in the case of young offenders convicted of the more serious crimes covered by section 53(2) and (3), the courts should enjoy a measure of flexibility denied to them in the case of those convicted of less serious crimes.

His Lordship referred to the recent Home Office paper: *No More Excuses - A New Approach to Tackling Youth Crime in England* (London: Home Office, 1997), where the present custodial arrangements for 10 to 17 year olds were described as "chaotic and dysfunctional" and where it was observed that the sentencing framework could lead to arbitrary outcomes: the kind of institution in which the sentence was served being to a large extent determined by the powers under which a young person was sentenced, rather than his needs.

His Lordship concluded that in the light of that the court should not seek to override the apparently clear meaning of the statute because it gave rise to an arguable anomaly. The exercise of the court's power had to be subject to important practical constraints in any case where the effective choice

was between detention in a young offender institution and detention under section 53(2) and (3).

1 The court had to found its opinion on clear and compelling evidence to show that, in the particular case, detention in a young offender institution was clearly demonstrable reasons clearly justifiable or detention in some other institution was for demonstrable reasons so much more suitable as to make detention in a young offender institution in comparison clearly unsuitable.

2 The court should not exercise its power under section 53(2) and (3) so as to permit an order to be made under that subsection other than in a young offender institution unless it was in receipt of a clear current indication that there was a place for the offender in such other institution which was willing to accept him.

Unless that rule were observed the court might exercise its power to sentence to detention in a young offender institution under section 53(2) and (3) on the ground that detention in a young offender institution was not suitable only to find that the offender was at once detained in just such an institution.

3 The court should save in exceptional circumstances, exercise its power to make an order under section 53(2) and (3) for two years or less in the case of an offender aged over 15 at the date of conviction on the ground that detention in a young offender institution would not be suitable.

That was because such offenders, even if sentenced under section 53(2) and (3), were in practice detained almost without exception in young offender institutions.

Thus it made no practical difference if they were sentenced under the 1933 Act rather than to detention in a young offender institution and there was therefore no point for them in making an order for two years or less under section 53(2) and (3) instead of detention for the same period in a young offender institution.

Nothing in the court's judgment affected the position of offenders aged under 15 on the date of conviction, who might not be sentenced to detention in a young offender institution, nor of those convicted of offences to which section 53(2) and (3) applied, in whose case a sentence longer than two years was judged to be necessary.

Solicitors: Roger Long & Co, Streatham; Treasury Solicitor.

Canada Trust Co and Others v Stolzenberg and Others (No 4)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment May 6]

On an interlocutory application challenging jurisdiction, where the parties had had a proper opportunity before the judge at first instance to put in such evidence as they wished, the circumstances would have to be exceptional for the Court of Appeal to allow one of the parties to adduce additional evidence so as to have the matter remitted for further consideration by the judge.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing five applications to adduce fresh evidence by Marco Gambazzi and a number of other defendants following orders of Mr Justice Rafter, upheld by the Court of Appeal on November 10, 1997; [1998] 1 WLR 547, refusing to set aside service of proceedings and validating service of the writ brought by the plaintiffs, Canada Trust Co and Royal Trust Corporation of Canada against Wolfgang Otto Stolzenberg and other defendants, many of whom were not resident in England.

Mr Murray Pickering, QC and Mr Charles Salter for the defendants, Marco Gambazzi, Gern SA, Coeval Co Inc, Trustring Anstalt, Mora Hotel Corporation

and Bogrin Financiera SA; Mr Michael Briggs, QC, for the fourth defendant, Edwin Barziger; Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Phillip Marshall for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that in dismissing the defendants' appeal from Mr Justice Rafter, the court had ruled that the date of the issue of the writ was the relevant date for the purpose of deciding when the first defendant, Mr Stolzenberg, was domiciled in England and that the required standard of proof was that of a good arguable case.

However, it appeared that the point on the application to the Court of Appeal to adduce fresh evidence had been left open for argument.

It was common ground that if fresh evidence were admitted, the appropriate course would be to remit the matter to the judge for further consideration.

The applications concerned evidence relating to the possibility that Mr Stolzenberg resided in Germany. The question was simply whether the evidence should be admitted at the appeal stage.

Both sides accepted that the strict rules of *Ladd v Marshall* (1954) 1 WLR 1489 did not apply to the applications because the principles enunciated by that case applied to a trial or hearing on the merits.

That would seem to support the

view that in interlocutory matters a less strict regime existed. The court had a general discretion to admit fresh evidence.

No doubt in some interlocutory appeals that should be so but there was in fact no reason why there should be any pre-conceptions about whether a more strict regime or a less strict regime was appropriate by reference to interlocutory appeals generally.

What was meant by "general discretion" was that circumstances differed greatly so far as interlocutory matters were concerned and rigid conditions for the exercise of the discretion applicable to all interlocutory appeals were inapposite.

The nature of the application, the reason why the evidence was not adduced in the court below, the opportunity provided for putting in evidence in the court below and the nature of the evidence sought to be put in would all be factors.

But if the application to challenge the jurisdiction had been issued in the ordinary way and the parties had a proper opportunity to put in such evidence as they wished, the circumstances would have to be exceptional to allow one party to come to the Court of Appeal, in effect saying:

"I wish I had put in this or that piece of additional evidence before the judge; let me argue the appeal with the extra evidence in or allow the evidence to be put in and grant

rehearing before the judge who originally decided the matter."

The defendants did not suggest that the evidence that was before the judge was inaccurate. They simply sought to add to the evidence that he had. It was evidence that they now wished they had obtained and added to the evidence before the judge.

The position was very little different from that in *Kramer v Kaz* (1994) 1 WLR 278, where the defendants had elected to fight the jurisdiction issue on the basis of the evidence put in at that stage and on the basis of the investigations they had chosen to carry out.

If they could show they had been misled in some way by the plaintiffs or that they had been prevented because of time constraints, or even conceivably because they simply did not have the resources and had intended to carry out the researches, the position might be different.

It would be quite wrong to encourage any notion that a party could have one instance before the judge at first instance on the evidence as it then was, but could always put in fresh evidence in the Court of Appeal if that failed. The fresh evidence should not be admitted.

Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Solicitors: Colman Coyle; Freshfields; Llewellyn Zietman.

# Additional evidence rejected

# Structure plan points must be addressed

Modern Homes (Whitworth) Ltd v Lancashire County Council

Before Mr Nigel Macleod, QC

[Judgment April 27]

Where, because a structure plan might be changed or replaced, a local authority had caused an examination in public to be held, its post-examination statements of its decision and reasons had to deal with all the objections raised about the change, even including any objections that had not been considered as issues at the public examination.

Mr Nigel Macleod, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in refusing the application of Modern Homes (Whitworth) Ltd for an order under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to quash part of the Lancashire Structure Plan adopted by Lancashire County Council in February 1997.

Section 33 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides: "(2) Where the authority have prepared proposals for the alteration or replacement of a structure plan they shall - (a) make copies of the proposals and the explanatory memorandum available for inspection. . . (6) The proposals shall not be adopted by the authority under section 35 until - (a) after they have considered any objections made in accordance with the regulations. . ."

Section 35B, as inserted by section 27 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, provides: "(1) Before adopting proposals for the alteration or replacement of a structure plan, the local planning authority shall, unless the secretary of state otherwise directs, cause an examination in public to be held of such matters affecting the consideration of the proposals as (a) they consider ought to be so examined; or (b) the secretary of state directs."

Regulation 16 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) Regulations (SI 1991 No 2794) provides: "(1) Where a local planning authority cause . . . an examination in public to be held for a purpose mentioned in regulation 15, the authority shall, after considering the report of the person holding the examination in public . . . prepare a statement of (a) the decisions they have reached in the light of the report and any recommendations contained in the report; and (b) the reasons for those decisions."

Regulation 17 provides: "(1) Where objections have been made to statutory plan proposals in accordance with these regulations and not withdrawn and the local planning authority do not cause a local inquiry or other hearing or examination in public to be held, the authority shall prepare a statement of their decisions as respects all the objections and their reasons for each decision."

Mr David Holgate, QC, for Modern Homes; Miss Frances Patterson for Lancashire.

HIS LORDSHIP said that section 33(6) of the Act prevented a local authority from adopting all the proposals until after they had considered any objections made in accordance with the regulations. That was separate from the examination in public.

The statutory requirement was to hold an examination in public for the examination of selected copies which the planning authority considered ought to be examined. That was of narrower compass than the general consideration of objections and the examination was characterised by the requirements of section 35B of the Act.

The distinction was reflected in the rules. If there was no examination in public regulation 17(1) required the planning authority to prepare a statement of its decisions as respects all objections and the reasons for those decisions.

If there had been an examination in public then by regulation 16(1) the planning authority had to prepare a statement of the decisions they had reached in the light of the reports and recommendations in the reports and give the reasons for those decisions.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Holgate's argument that properly construed, that meant that the planning authority still had to give

reasons for each decision."

Mr David Holgate, QC, for Modern Homes; Miss Frances Patterson for Lancashire.

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If there had been an examination in public then by regulation 16(1) the planning authority had to prepare a statement of the decisions they had reached in the light of the reports and recommendations in the reports and give the reasons for those decisions.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Holgate's argument that properly construed, that meant that the planning authority still had to give

reasons for their decisions on each objection whether or not it had been debated at the examination in public and notwithstanding the nature of the debate at the examination in public.

To read the regulations otherwise would mean that there would be wider response to objections required when no examination in public had been held, and that did not seem a sensible interpretation and should not be followed where the words did not require it.

Section 33(6) did require that all objections were considered. It made sense, therefore, that the decisions referred to in regulation 16 were decisions on those objections, and that the effect of the holding of the examination in public was not that reasons for decisions on all objections need not be given but that the decisions had to be made in the light of the report and its recommendations.

As Mr Holgate had pointed out, the selection of topics and their consideration at an examination in public helped the planning authority in making its decisions, whereas the duty to give reasons protected objectors.

Although his Lordship did find that the local authority were obliged to act fairly within the context of the structure plan proceedings, he did not find that they were in breach of their duty to act fairly.

Solicitors: Halliwell Landaus; Mr George Curran, Preston.

# Words recommended

Regina v Eastleigh Magistrates Court, Ex parte Sansome

When Justices had decided that an offence triable either way was suitable for summary trial, there was merit in their addressing the defendant as suggested in *Stone's Justices Manual*.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Brian Smedley) so observed on May 11 dismissing an application by Clive Robert Charles Sansome for judicial review of a decision by Southampton Justices to commit him to

Southampton Crown Court for sentence.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that *Stone's* (1998 edition, paragraph 1-438) suggested:

"If the court believes that you deserve greater punishment than this court can give (or if you have to be sent to the crown court to be tried on a related charge) it will send you to the crown court to be sentenced. Otherwise you will be sentenced here. If you do not indicate a guilty plea the court will decide whether to send you to the crown court for trial."

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTIONS 8(5) AND 10(6) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

- She proposes to grant licences under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to EGN BV, International Telecommunications Group Inc, Internet Network Services Limited, Qwest Communications International Limited, Teletop Network International Limited, VersaTel Telecom BV, Viatel U.K. Limited and Wiley Communications Limited ("the Licensees") to run telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom. The licences will be for a period of six months, thereafter being subject to revocation on one month's notice. In the case of Teletop Network International Limited and Viatel U.K. Limited the licences will replace similar licences issued on 18 December 1996 and 28 April 1997 respectively but which did not apply the telecommunications code.
- The principal effect of each licence will be to enable each Licensee to install and run telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom which may be connected to telecommunication systems outside the United Kingdom, and to provide a wide range of services but not any domestic services (i.e. services involving the conveyance of messages which originate and are subsequently to terminate in the United Kingdom) or mobile radio services. Each licence authorises connection to a wide range of other systems, including earth orbiting apparatus.
- Each licence will be subject to conditions such that section 8 of the Act will apply to it, thereby making each of the systems run under each licence eligible for designation as a public telecommunication system under section 9 of the Act. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to designate each of the Licensees' systems as a public telecommunication system.
- The Secretary of State proposes to grant each licence in response to an application from each Licensee for such a licence because she considers that it will help to satisfy demands in the United Kingdom for the provision of services of the type authorised, will promote the interests of consumers in respect of the quality and variety of such services, and will maintain and promote effective competition between those engaged in the provision of telecommunication services.
- She proposes to apply the telecommunications code ("the Code") to EGN BV, Internet Network Services Limited, Teletop Network International Limited, VersaTel Telecom BV and Viatel U.K. Limited subject to certain exceptions and conditions throughout the United Kingdom. The effect of the exceptions and conditions to the application of the Code is that each of those Licensees will have duties:
  - to comply with various safety and environmental conditions, in particular (with certain exceptions) to install lines underground or only on such above-ground apparatus as is already installed for any purpose;
  - to comply with conditions designed to ensure efficiency and economy on the part of each of those Licensees, in connection with the execution of works on land concerning the installation, maintenance, repair or alteration of their apparatus;
  - to consult certain public bodies before exercising particular powers under the Code, including the local planning and highway authorities and English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland, as well as relevant electricity suppliers;
  - to keep and make available records of the location of underground apparatus and copies of the exceptions and conditions in their respective licences to their powers under the Code; and
  - to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet certain liabilities arising from the execution of street works.
- The reason why the Secretary of State proposes to apply the Code to EGN BV, Internet Network Services Limited, Teletop Network International Limited, VersaTel Telecom BV and Viatel U.K. Limited is that they will each need the statutory powers in the Code to install and maintain the telecommunication systems which are to be installed and run under their proposed licences.
- The reasons why it is proposed that the Code should have effect subject to the exceptions and conditions referred to above are that they are considered requisite or expedient for the purpose of securing that the physical environment is protected, that there is no greater damage to land than necessary, that the systems are installed as safely and economically as possible, and that each Licensee to whom the Code is applied can meet (and relevant persons can enforce) liabilities arising from the execution of works.
- Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed licences, the application of the Code to certain of the Licensees and the proposed exceptions and conditions referred to above. They should be made in writing by 12 June 1998 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 2,67 Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licences can freely be obtained by writing to the Department or by calling 0171 215 1756.

Anthony J. Edon-Brown  
Department of Trade and Industry  
14 May 1998

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# AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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Amsterdam	£68	£118	£68	£118	£118	£118	£118	£118
Belfast	£60							
Brussels	£69	£119		£119	£119	£119	£119	£119
Cologne	£92	£142		£142	£142	£142	£142	£142
Dublin	£60							
East Midlands			£60					
Edinburgh	£60			£60				
Frankfurt	£92	£145		£145	£145	£145	£145	£145
Glasgow	£60				£60			
Heathrow	£60					£60		
Leeds/Bradford	£60					£60		
Manchester	£60						£60	
Paris	£67	£117	£67	£117	£117	£117	£117	£117
Prague	£153	£203		£203	£203	£203	£203	£203



Bargains of the week: try Texan food on Jersey; climb a volcano in the Azores; go shopping in Singapore



PACK YOUR BAGS... A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield...

BRITAIN

IF CORNWALL takes your fancy as the spring sun appears, rooms are available for next week at Enny's, a Georgian house with pool and tennis court near Penzance...

TV can be seen at a discount with Wiltshire Tourism, which is offering short breaks from £10 a night at farms and guesthouses...

TEXAN CHEF Charles Watkins will be adding spice to Jersey's Food Festival from May 23 to 31 as he cooks black pepper-crusted red snapper and pecan pie at L'Horizon...

HOLKER Garden Festival from May 29 to 31 is one of the Lake District's more gentle events and can be enjoyed on a spring break at Linthwaite House Hotel in Windermere...

SOAK UP the atmosphere of the latest 'wedding of the year' by staying at Blakes Cottages in Winchcombe next to Sudley Castle, Gloucestershire...

THE LIONS of Longleat, currently starring on daytime TV, can be seen at a discount with Wiltshire Tourism...

EUROPE

CORSICA at a discount is an offer from VFB Holidays if you can travel on Sunday. A week's half-board at a family-run seaside hotel costs £467, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire...

IBIZA for a fortnight's B&B for £159 on a Sunworld holiday with a flight from Cardiff on Saturday is among mid-May offers from Co-op Travelcare...

DAY TRIPS to Belgium offer greater opportunities now that Hoverspeed is operating a fast ferry service from Dover to Ostend in under two hours...

IF PARIS during the World Cup is where you really want to be, Room Service still has accommodation available in single rooms in central two-star hotels...

BANK HOLIDAY weekend departures are still available from Treasures of Turkey with a special deal of two weeks B&B at the coastal resort of Patra with a flight from Manchester...

ITALIAN LIFE is offering savings of up to 20 per cent on selected villas and farmhouses in popular holiday areas, with prices working out at less than £60 a person including ferry crossing...

ISLAND HOPPING with a difference is possible with Explore Worldwide's trip to the Azores for a fortnight from June 8...

PARIS during the World Cup is where you really want to be. Room Service still has accommodation available in single rooms in central two-star hotels...



See Egyptian antiquities on a visit to the Luxor temples

LONG HAUL

EGYPT is slowly returning to the package tour scene six months after the Luxor massacre, with Hayes and Jarvis launching a new brochure with dozens of holidays to the country from June 1...

VANCOUVER return for £315 including taxes is on offer from Bon Voyage, but you must fly by June 14 and return within a month...

KENYA safari for three days plus 11 days at a beach hotel for £615 including most meals is available from Somak Holidays...

ENGLAND'S cricketers might have failed in Barbados but most holidaymakers are more successful and those taking advantage of a fortnight's Airtours self-catering trip for £468 should be on a winner...

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CRICKET

Malcolm's warning likely to be ignored

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Northamptonshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are seven runs ahead of Yorkshire

It could be because the South Africans, who were served up in a scrumptious pie on his feast day four years ago, are back on this sceptred isle. It might be a simple wish to repay his new club for its declaration of confidence in him at the age of 35. It probably has more to do with self-respect, after an unhappy final season at Derby. Whatever the reason, Devon Malcolm is not about to slip away quietly.

On a goodish pitch, in misty

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Yorkshire and Northamptonshire scores, including batsmen and bowlers.

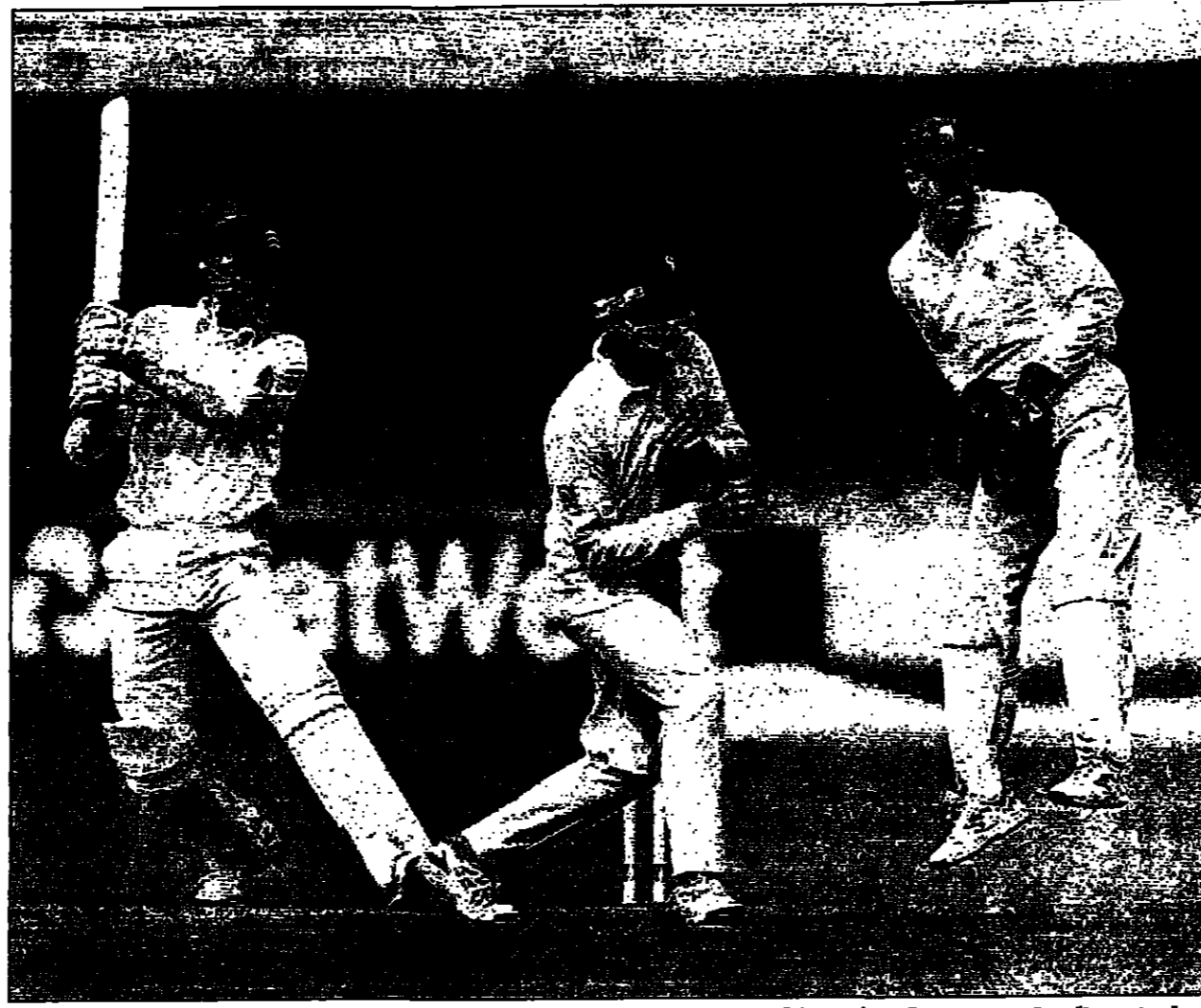
conditions that favoured movement through the air, as Yorkshire's bowlers found out later when it became hazier, Malcolm routed the early-season championship leaders with six wickets yesterday. It was a good day to be a Cobblar but, before they can admire their boots, they must first stick to their last.

sure where he is concerned because it changes so wildly from over to over.

The chairman of selectors will have made a more lengthy note of the spell that Paul Hitchison, Yorkshire's left-arm swinger, bowled before tea. He took two early wickets and consistently moved the ball back into the right hander at a good pace. He is 15 years fresher than Malcolm and has only to maintain the progress that he has made over the past year to earn a commendation. He looks a player.

Graveney undoubtedly came to Northampton to see how Darren Gough is shaping up. Here England have a question to resolve. Do they pluck him out of Yorkshire's game at Gloucester next week, where he can continue to regain the habit of bowling proper spells, in order to give him a run-out in the Texaco Trophy one-day internationals, or do they reacquire him immediately with the small of the grass? Gough is a fine one-day bowler, but it is not two for 34 that England need most urgently this summer, or this winter for that matter. Only the best, and the fittest, bowlers will do against South Africa and Australia. Until Gough proves beyond doubt that he is fit, after his winter off games, and bowling sharply enough to justify his place in the Test team, he should not be indulged.

He took one wicket yesterday, winning an appeal for a catch behind when Bailey clearly felt that the ball brushed his shoulder on its way through. He did a lot of shouting, sometimes with justification, but he never really found his best line for the swinging ball. Still, these are early days and he should be a busy man this summer. The first four wickets of a day that saw 14 go down belonged to Malcolm. When he added a fifth, an hour before lunch, Yorkshire were 46 for six. That they reached 145 was due to White's 42, a late whack from Silverwood, and three missed chances. Bailey's drop at slip off Hitchison denied Malcolm a seventh wicket, which would have given him his best figures in the championship. Overall, though, on a day that he went past 800 wickets in first-class cricket, he cannot complain.



Hewitt, the Middlesex batsman, cuts off the back foot during his innings of 47 against Somerset at Lord's yesterday

Boundary given short shrift

LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Somerset, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 47 runs behind Middlesex

By JACK BAILEY

THERE was a tinge of green in this Lord's pitch. As near the Tavern as first-class conditions allow, it ensured that seam ruled and fours abounded. Rusty batsmen on both sides fell victim to lateral movement and slick catching and, although Somerset hold the advantage, chiefly through a partnership of 107 for their fifth wicket between Richard Harden and Mark Lethwell, there is precious little in it. When Harden was bowled half an hour before the finish, it was the first time the stumps had been hit while 14 wickets had fallen. That almost all

were the result of catches close to the wicket tells its own story. Middlesex had the worst of conditions. Only when Paul Weekes and James Hewitt, following the lead given by Richard Johnson, helped to hoist Middlesex from 73 for six to the heady heights of 200 for nine did bat succeed in dominating the field. Keith Brown, captaining Middlesex in the absence of Ramprakash — a badly bruised finger had ruled him out — must have cursed his luck when he won the toss: it was a tough choice to bat first and any fears he may have had were soon confirmed. Gating and Kettlebrough made a briefly successful attempt to ward off a storm that had already shown signs of breaking before Rose settled in to move the ball away from the right hander and Caddick found the right length. Shine had already moved one away from Langer to have him caught at slip, and the same bowler had seen Kettlebrough put down at short leg before Gating settled in. Kettlebrough celebrated his field by losing no opportunity to thump the ball hard. However, once Harden, at second slip, had taken a low catch off Rose to send Gating on his way, the door was open. Rose, memories of his rejection by Middlesex long ago still burning bright, went on to remove Shah and Nash. At

that stage he had taken three wickets for no runs in 12 balls. When Caddick removed Brown and Johnson had played and missed his way to lunch, a Middlesex resurgence was hardly on the cards. But then Johnson connected to the tune of 27 from 30 balls and, as conditions eased, Weekes with nine fours in his 42 and Hewitt with 47 from 65 balls allowed only the wiles of Mushtaq to contain them. Fraser and Johnson proved almost as great a problem for Somerset. But Harden's solid professionalism stood out. Lethwell was in near mid-season form. The short boundary continued to yield fours, as it had with Middlesex, and a day of wickets and boundaries finished with Somerset holding on for today.

Butcher enjoys select audience

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four; Surrey won toss): Surrey have scored 434 for five wickets against Hampshire

By JOHN STERN

BATTING with the England captain, who is therefore an impressionable selector, must be a tense business if like Mark Butcher, you know that your place in the Test side is far from secure. Butcher nevertheless achieved his aim by making a century in front of, and partly in conjunction with, Alec Stewart — who also happens to be his brother-in-law — but it was not one of his most fluent innings, at least early on. Although he hit ten fours in his first fifty, it took 130 balls, which was an indication that Hampshire's bowling was very much a mixed bag. There were one or two

beauties, particularly from McLean, and tidy medium-pace from James but plenty of balls to be hit on a comfortable Northlands Road pitch. Butcher and Stewart put on 118 for the first wicket but both gave difficult chances, Stewart a low return to Mascarenhas while Butcher was put down three times in the slips and at point, admittedly from vigorous cuts. Stewart was out leg-before, pushing half-forward to the first ball after lunch from James for 59. Both Thorpe and Adam Hollisook looked untroubled and eased into their thirties but Thorpe edged one to Aymes and his captain top-edged a pull to fine leg.

Brown, though, who made a century off 72 balls in the first championship match of the season, was in one of his moods to make the bowlers curse the fact that their captain had lost the toss. He reached his half-century off only 50 balls, including two sixes. He and Batty, who made a presentable fifty himself, added a hundred for the sixth wicket in a little over 20 overs. Brown bringing up the 400 with a cut off Udal that took him into the nineties. The very occasional seam-up of Laney — he has never taken a first-class wicket — was tried by Smith but served only to allow Brown to reach his century, which came off 94 balls, with two consecutive off-driven fours five overs before the close.

He has never taken a first-class wicket — was tried by Smith but served only to allow Brown to reach his century, which came off 94 balls, with two consecutive off-driven fours five overs before the close.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Derbyshire v Warwickshire, Gloucestershire v Leics, and others.

Knight's century lights up the day

By RICHARD HOBSON

DERBY (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 155 runs ahead of Derbyshire

AFTER two poor sessions, Derbyshire engineered something of a recovery yesterday, but their prospects of denying Warwickshire a first championship victory of the season must still be considered slim. A partnership of 130 for the second wicket between Nick Knight, who batted superbly, and David Hemp already carries a decisive appearance in a low-scoring encounter.

Knight ensured that Warwickshire tightened their hold on a game secured initially by the bowlers in conducive conditions for swing. Brian Lara could not have hesitated in inserting Derbyshire after winning the toss and Dougie Brown, in particular, vindicated his decision. Brown removed the first five Derbyshire batsmen at a personal cost of 18 runs in eight overs and, after Welch accounted for Barnett and Blackwell, Giddins returned to take the final three wickets for one run in seven balls. Although the pitch had a verdant tinge and offered bounce, most of the movement came through the air under a permanent haze.

Derbyshire, too, were compliant in their own decline. Frost, the wicketkeeper, held four catches as batsmen dangled their bats outside off stump. In addition, Knight held a marvellous diving catch low at third slip to remove Barnett and Ostler held an equally difficult catch when Blackwell played a lazy stroke to short backward square.

The only blemish from Warwickshire's viewpoint occurred when Giddins, at long leg, spilled an easier chance when DeFreitas was on 11. DeFreitas went on to make 30 net out and added 42 with Cork, comfortably the best partnership of a feeble effort.

Powell was turned around by Cork before Warwickshire reached double figures. However, Knight and Hemp took them beyond Derbyshire's total of 98 in the 26th over as they dealt comfortably with a series of short balls and drove anything overpitched with ease. Hemp pushed to point shortly after completing his fifty and Lara, struck a painful blow on the wrist by Cork, offered little suggestion of permanence before nudging DeFreitas to Krikken.

Ostler, who now has ten runs in five innings, Brown, Smith and Giles followed inside as Derbyshire belatedly hit the right length consistently. However, Knight continued to apply himself and reached a fine hundred after 266 minutes with 11 fours.

Lewis and Mullally set stage for Wells

By IVO TENNANT

BRISTOL (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 111 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

THIS was not a day on which to lose the toss. Gloucestershire, put in on a morning of hanging mists and glistening dew, were bowled out by Chris Lewis and Alan Mullally for 134 early in the afternoon. When, in reply, Vince Wells reached a century off 103 balls, Leicestershire were preening themselves in rather different conditions.

That is not to say that Leicestershire did not bowl with marked accuracy and, in certain cases, with pretty well. Lewis, who is relishing having been given the captaincy in the absence of Whitaker, swung the ball considerably and took six for 60. Mullally collected the other wickets. Three of the first four Gloucestershire batsmen were out without playing a shot and there was no semblance of a recovery after that. Cunniffe, Hancock and Windows were all out padding up or attempting to withdraw the bat. Wright was taken at second slip, as was Alleyne, who drove rashly outside off stump just before lunch. Church, Ball, Jon Lewis and Russell were all caught in the same vicinity, indicative of the extent to which the ball swung.

All the while, Chris Lewis maintained the ideal length of on or just outside off stump, cutting down on his pace and inducing away-swing. Mills had to contend with coming on first change and being left with nothing much to which to bowl. When Mike Smith was yorked by Lewis, a third, let alone a fourth day, was looking anything but a necessity.

By mid-afternoon, though, the dampness had gone from the pitch and from the air. Smith was unable to make the new ball swing to anything like the same extent as Lewis and, although Maddy was taken at the wicket off a glove and Sutcliffe was caught at first slip off Smith, batting was altogether an easier affair. Wells, who watches the ball on to the bat with the utmost concentration, found the very partner he needed in Ben Smith and they added 153 in 30 overs.

Wells's second fifty came off just 40 balls. The manner in which he has made a career for himself at a relatively late age and Suttcliffe was caught at first slip off Smith, batting was altogether an easier affair. Wells, who watches the ball on to the bat with the utmost concentration, found the very partner he needed in Ben Smith and they added 153 in 30 overs.

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CRICKET: FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN SERVES NOTICE OF READINESS TO FACE SOUTH AFRICA

# Atherton underlines his Test claim

By SIMON WILDE

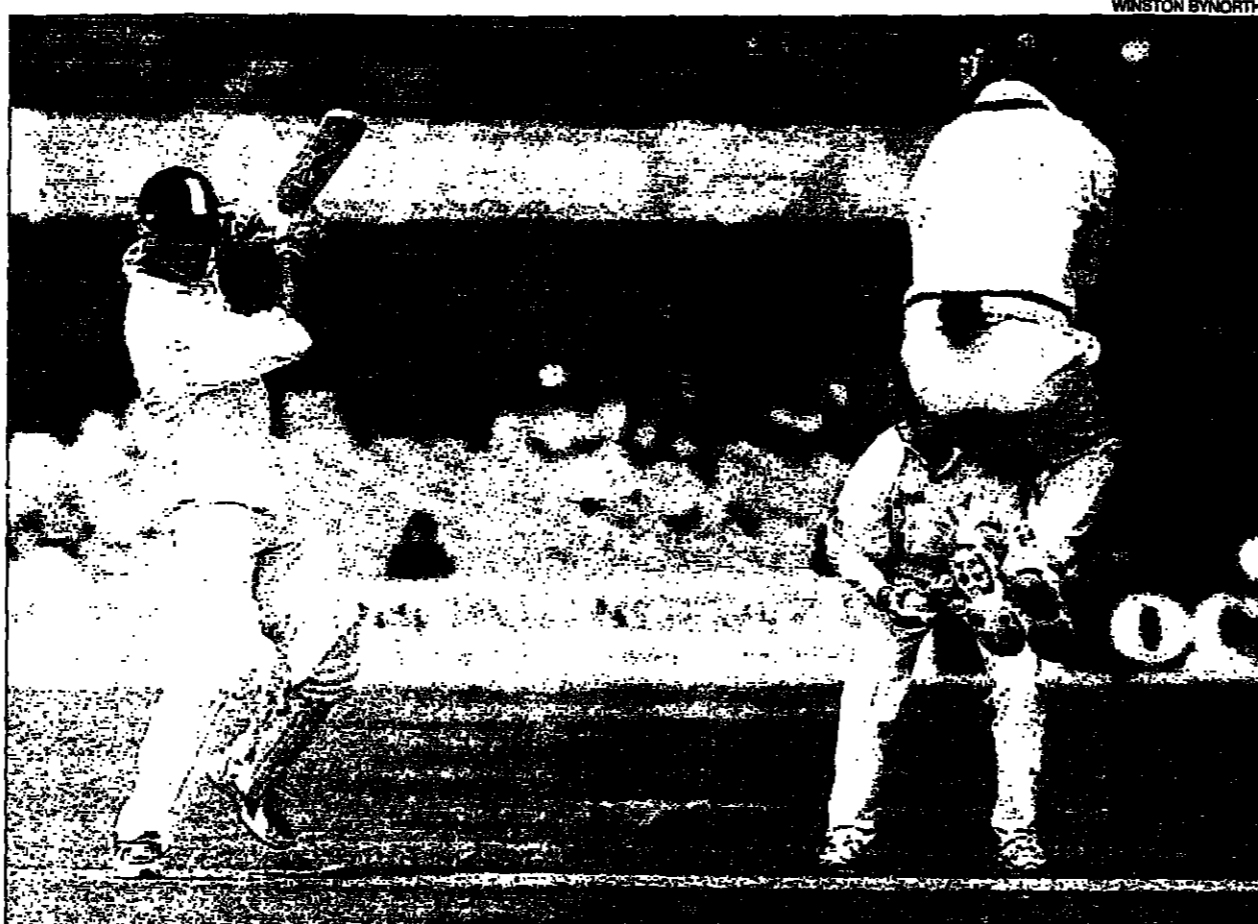
**CANTERBURY** (first day of four; Kent won toss): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind Kent

LIFE has started afresh for Michael Atherton since he relinquished the England captaincy. Last week, a Dutchman he does not know sent him book tokens worth £50 as a sign of his admiration and few people did that sort of thing during Atherton's steely-eyed leadership reign.

It is hard to imagine him rushing out to exchange his tokens for Ray Illingworth's autobiography or *Shock! Horror! The Tabloids in Action*. More plausible candidates, perhaps, are *Coming Up For Air* or *Far from the Madding Crowd*, but, in truth, Orwell and Hardy are no more likely to be read. Atherton intends to be far too busy batting to have time for much else.

Amid the fuss over his grim start to the season, Atherton remained defiantly unconcerned, confident that the runs would return, as they have in the past when he has experienced drought. Even before he went out to bat yesterday, he looked relaxed and confident and his instincts proved to be correct. After Lancashire performed excellently to dismiss Kent for 186, he spent the final two hours of the day crafting a near-perfect 42 not out. He will be looking for more today.

He has provided the England selectors with just the excuse



Flintoff is forced to take smart evasive action as Headley cuts a ball from Watkinson at Canterbury yesterday

they need to include him in their party for the first Test match against South Africa early next month. They will surely do so.

Atherton, in fact, has had few opportunities to score runs in serious cricket. He

failed in his only proper innings in Lancashire's first championship match against Sussex and missed the second because of back trouble. But the fact that he scored runs yesterday while being clean-shaven may not escape the

notice of Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Fortune smiled on him. Why Marsh, the Kent captain, chose to bat first under over-cast skies is hard to fathom.

but he did Atherton and Lancashire a favour. The ball swung extravagantly in the morning session, in which Kent looked completely at sea and lost six wickets. Atherton held one slip catch to remove Wells and might have had

another had not Hegg poached an edge from Fulton. As the ball aged and the clouds dispersed, batting became easier and the Kent innings took on its usual topsy-turvy character, a feeble start retrieved by the lower order. Good bowling was met by fearless batting. As so often, Ealham led the recovery with a disciplined, judicious knock, the second-best innings of the day.

He came in at 61 for four and scored 73 out of the next 116. Marsh and Phillips both stuck around, Phillips more by luck than good judgment. His share of an eighth-wicket stand of 64 was seven and he could have been out several times to Wasim, who deserved better than to finish with one wicket. In the end, Phillips fell essaying a careless sweep at Watkinson, when all he needed to do was keep Ealham company.

Watkinson and Keedy claimed the last three wickets on a pitch that was starting to offer turn and it was through spin that Kent fought their way back into the match in the final half-hour. Hooper removed Wood and Fairbrother, who was bowled not offering a drive before he had got his eye in.

Atherton, though, remained serene, as he promised to do after carefully playing himself in against accurate opening spells from Headley and Phillips. He walked off looking fully prepared to write a few more chapters yet in his own story.

# Strang finds perfect pitch Gough shines on his debut

**TRENT BRIDGE** (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Sussex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 236 runs behind Nottinghamshire

THIS albeit green-tinged pitch is one that Paul Strang, the new Nottinghamshire overseas player, would probably be happy to roll up and carry around the country.

Strang, batting at No 8, made 48 from 79 balls, but these far from dramatic statistics conceal considerable merits. Anything more than 250 was potentially satisfying for Nottinghamshire because the ball moved around in the early mist and swung in the steamy

haze that followed. A year ago, when playing for Kent, Strang made 73 on the identical 22 yards of Trent Bridge turf and shared the county's record ninth-wicket partnership of 171 with Ealham in an innings win over Nottinghamshire.

This time, his runs, together with a typically forthright 68 from Johnson, with 11 fours from 75 balls, granted Nottinghamshire comparative riches, especially when Sussex lost their first two wickets without scoring, and then Bevan just before the close at 7.10pm.

Wasim Khan was caught at

third slip and Adams was run out as non-striker when Bowen deflected a drive from Peire.

Strang and Bowen shared a ninth-wicket partnership of 57 for Nottinghamshire, reversing the trend of collapse inflicted by Lewry and Kirtley. Sussex were so eager to employ their seam bowlers fully that Jarvis was enlisted for two spells in the afternoon.

Kirtley, the most effective, had swiftly ousted Downman and Gallian, and Bevan, slow left-arm but sometimes pushing the ball through menacingly, later dislodged Afzaal and Wharf with successive balls.

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** (first day of four; Durham won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 276 runs behind Durham

MICHAEL GOUGH was going to go back to school to complete his A levels when he returned from the England Under-19 tour of South Africa last winter, but he had developed a taste for playing cricket full-time and joined the Durham staff instead. Yesterday, he suggested that his appetite is going to take some satisfying.

It cannot be easy for an opening batsman of 18 to make his first-class debut

under the watchful gaze of such players as David Boon and Graham Gooch, the Durham captain and batting coach respectively, yet, if Gough was overawed, it did not show as he occupied the crease for 77 overs in scoring 62 of Durham's first-innings total of 276.

He was there for 4½ hours, hitting only three fours, but Durham needed someone to play like that in the absence of their three best players — Boon, himself, with a broken toe, Lewis with hamstring trouble and Morris with a calf strain. The way some of the

others got out after getting in only emphasised the importance of his contribution.

Once Gough passed 50, he tried to change gear and had just driven Irani handsomely straight for four when he made his first serious error of judgement, shouldering arms to fluff and falling leg-before.

Of the rest, Speak, Collingwood, Speight and Foster all promised more than they actually achieved against an Essex attack that kept going well in the absence of the injured Cowan and Such. Flint and Irani were the pick, while the medium-paced Danny Wilson took a wicket on his championship debut.

# Fag-end of an era irks Essex man

THE imminent demise of the Benson and Hedges Cup has been greeted with relief in some quarters, but the competition has a stout defender in Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, who feels that it has provided a great service to the English game.

"The cup has been tremendous," Edwards said, despite being, it has to be noted, one of nature's conservatives. "Some say that the season opens with a whimper, but without the Bensons, it would have been quieter still. The group games drew people through the gates."

A mid-season knockout tournament fulfilled a need. We will all feel the draught once it has gone. For all Edwards's enthusiasm, Essex have won the cup only once — though they are still in this year's event.

## Hair apparent

The new England captain appears to have a sense of humour. Alec Stewart, whose appointment to the post last week was deemed to owe much to his obliging manner and shirts so rigorously ironed that passers-by might be cut by his cuffs, took time out at the Professional Cricketers' Association meeting at Edgbaston on Monday to upbraid a hack with shoulder-length tresses. "Get your hair cut," he barked in a sergeant-majority fashion that would have made Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth purr. Then, sotto voce and with a smile, he added: "It's all about image. You know that."

## Two class acts

Mark Benson, who retired from the professional game with a crooked knee 18 months ago, is to turn out for Suttonians, a club with close ties to Sutton Valence School, his alma mater. The club will play on the school's delightful ground near Maidstone and mix old lags with youngsters. The boys should learn a thing or two. The side will be led by Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain.



## Naked ambition

Nigel Bett, who ceased being Sussex secretary last year amid revelations of his naturist inclinations, has been seeking a return to clothed employment. He applied unsuccessfully to succeed Stuart Anderson, who retires later this year as secretary at Kent, and has approached other counties without success.

## BBC Boycott

More bad news for Geoffrey Boycott in his annus horribilis. He has been given the heave-ho for this summer's internationals by the BBC, which has decided to overlook his services pending the outcome of Boycott's appeal in France against an assault charge. His place will be taken by England opener soon after Boycott vacated it. Broad sold his off-licence business last year and is now concentrating on broadcasting work. He commented for BBC television and Australia's Channel 9 last summer and spent the winter working for Radio 5 Live.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There are occasional situations in which team tactics affect the odds on how declarer should play. This is an example.

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
♠ J74 ♥ K98 ♦ 876 ♣ AKQ6 ♥ QJ ♦ AK943 ♣ 82	♠ J74 ♥ K98 ♦ 876 ♣ A843 ♠ 82 ♥ A106532 ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ6	♠ 10953 ♥ 74 ♦ QJ105 ♣ 1075

S	W	N	E
Missop	Double	Townsend	Pass
1H	Double	2H	All Pass
4H	Double	All Pass	

Contract: Four Hearts Doubled, by South. Lead: ace of spades

West's second double was for take-out just like his first double, but showing considerable extra strength. East should have taken it out to Four Spades.

West cashed two top spades and followed with two rounds of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and played a heart to the king, with the queen appearing on his left. Now he followed the percentages by running the nine on the way back, cursing the Principle of Restricted Choice when this lost to the jack for one off. (PRC states that when a defender follows with one of two equal cards, the queen/jack of hearts in this case, he is twice as likely to be playing the only one he holds, than exercising a choice holding both cards.)

It being a teams-of-four event, declarer might have considered it from a different

angle. If hearts break 3-1, East-West can make Four Spades; if they break 2-2, Four Spades is one off. So by playing for the drop in hearts, South will make Four Hearts Doubled if the trumps break, and have the consolation that the opponents are cold for Four Spades if they don't. If a big "if" team-mates can be trusted to reach Four Spades, and their opponents not to save in Five Hearts, South's team is guaranteed to gain IMPs however the hearts divide. On a 3-1 split the team gains 11 IMPs for a swing of plus 520 (team-mates 620 less your 100). On a 2-2 split the gain is 10 IMPs for plus 490 (your 590 less their 100).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- PANGA**  
 a. A South American punt  
 b. A panda/gorilla cross  
 c. The original continent
- RJROIRO**  
 a. Women's chichat  
 b. A rice and veg stew  
 c. An Antipodean wren
- PADKOS**  
 a. Travelling provisions  
 b. An Aegean island  
 c. A district judge
- SACCADE**  
 a. A twitch  
 b. Artificial sugar  
 c. A line dance

Answers on page 50

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Championship chances

Although criticism can be levelled at Garry Kasparov's chosen method of selecting a challenger for his world title, there can be no doubt that the imminent match between Alexei Shirov and Vladimir Kramnik to determine Kasparov's opponent will be of immense interest. Both players are in good form and are noted for the sharpness of their strategic layout and the violence of their tactical ideas.

Although the absence of Anatoly Karpov and Viswanathan Anand from the lists is to be regretted, Kramnik and Shirov are worthy opponents.

Over the coming week and a half, before their qualifying match begins in Spain, I shall be previewing their prospects and giving all the decisive games played between them in international competitions.

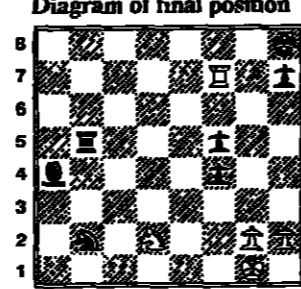
The score in important events between the two is six wins to Shirov, four to Kramnik and eight draws. I start off with a win for Kramnik played in England six years ago.

White: Alexei Shirov  
 Black: Vladimir Kramnik  
 Oakham 1992

Queen's Gambit accepted

1 d4	d5
2 c4	dxc4
3 e4	c5
4 Nf3	cc4
5 Bxc4	Nc6
6 0-0	e6
7 a3	Bc6
8 b4	Nf6
9 b5	Nc5
10 a5	Nxc4
11 exd6	gxh6
12 Qxd4	Ne5

### Diagram of final position



### Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01576 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

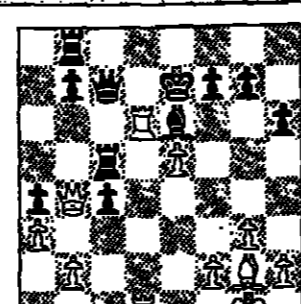
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Markowski — Maes, Belgium, 1998.

The key to this position is the placement of the white queen and black king along the a3-f8 diagonal. How did White exploit this feature to score a quick win?



Solution on page 50

# THE TIMES

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FOOTBALL

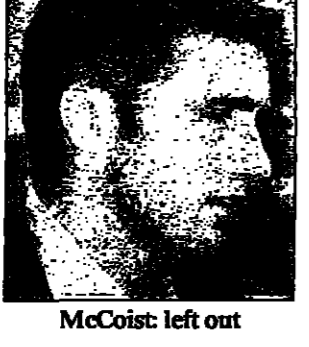
Brown consigns McCoist and McCall to history

By Kevin McCarran

THE Scotland squad for the World Cup finals has been chosen in a spirit of loyalty, enlivened by a dash of ruthlessness. Of the 22 men selected, 18 played in the qualifying matches, but Craig Brown, the manager, has proved ready to part with some familiar faces. There was no room for Ally McCoist or Stuart McCall, the Rangers veterans.

In April, McCoist, 25, recovered fitness and an upsurge of acclaim followed the series of goals that he scored, but subsequently his form has waned. "It is a football decision," Brown said. "I like to be loyal, but not foolishly so. I think McCoist would now find it much more difficult to get goals at World Cup level."

The forward's cause was also hindered when injury prevented him from appearing in either of the B internationals in the past two months. His place has been awarded to Scott Booth, 25, who has been effective for Utrecht since joining them on loan from Borussia Dortmund.



McCoist: left out

Casiraghi ready for £6m move to Chelsea

CONFIRMATION that Chelsea intend to continue their policy of importing costly talent came from Italy yesterday when Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Italy forward, announced that he will probably be moving to Stamford Bridge from Lazio.

Casiraghi, 29, said he was waiting for the two clubs to agree a fee, expected to be around £6 million. "I haven't signed the contract yet and I don't think the two clubs have reached an agreement yet," he said. "It's not 100 per cent sure that I'll be playing in England, but I think that is how it's going to finish. I don't fit

in with Lazio's plans for the future, so it's only right that I should make my choice."

Liverpool have made an approach to Oldham Athletic for Carl Serrant, the England Under-21 defender. Steve Nicol, the former Liverpool midfielder player, has been released by Sheffield Wednesday.

Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentine striker, who has been linked with a move to Manchester United, is under investigation for alleged tax evasion. The Fiorentina player had £33,000 of his assets frozen by the Argentine authorities yesterday.

all. Any difficulty will have lain in finding sufficient, credible names to make up the numbers. Brown has committed himself to one remarkable act of faith. Tosh McKinlay, 33, is in the squad despite barely playing for Celtic all season.

McKinlay has undergone extra training sessions and performed efficiently in the recent B matches, but those exertions do not entirely explain his achievement in convincing Brown. "He is a specialist," the manager said, "and we do not have anyone else who delivers the ball in the way he can." It is expected that McKinlay will probably appear only as a substitute in France.

The core group from which the starting line up will be drawn was defined in Brown's mind long ago. As before, the manager prizes experience over youthful vigour. He may have decided that he had sufficient replacements to dispense with McCoist, but age alone is no barrier to selection. Eleven members of the squad are 30 or over.

The manager's selection has been made along conventional lines and he faces a few small inquiries rather than a fusillade of protests. There was anxiety over the condition of Craig Burley, the Celtic midfielder player, but he has been advised by a specialist that ten days of rest should be enough to clear the effects of sciatica.

There was a gesture towards the years ahead in the inclusion of younger men such as Simon Donnelly and Jackie McNamara, both of Celtic, but Brown has principally gathered a squad with the impending challenge of next month's World Cup in mind.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Goalkeepers: J. Lofthouse (Aberdeen), A. Goram (Rangers), N. Sullivan (Woolwich), Defenders: Boyd (Celtic), D. Whyte (Aberdeen), C. Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), M. Elliot (Leicester City), C. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), J. McKinlay (Celtic), J. McNamara (Celtic), D. Weir (Plant of Midlothian), C. Daily (Derby County), Midfield players: C. Burley (Celtic), J. Collins (AS Monaco), S. Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), P. Lamont (Celtic), W. McKinlay (Blackburn Rovers), Forwards: S. Donnelly (Celtic), G. Durie (Rangers), K. Galloway (Blackburn Rovers), D. Jackson (Celtic), S. Booth (Borussia Dortmund)



Hingis plays a typically powerful backhand during her straight-sets German Open victory over Silvia Farina

Flustered Pierce forced out

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN BERLIN

IT was no surprise that competitors in the German Open were out of sorts by the time they got down to business, such as the disruption caused by the arrival of President Clinton and his entourage. The presidential party has taken up two floors of the players' hotel.

Mary Pierce, the No 6 seed, knew something was amiss from the start. Preparing to play Barbara Paulus, of Austria, she felt a slight twinge in her left thigh. Not that it caused her any problems as she worked her way to a 6-4, 4-2 lead. Then, lunging to retrieve a drop shot, she felt the muscle go and from that stage she was in trouble.

Serving for the match at 5-3, Pierce committed four miserable errors as Paulus broke,

but even then she was in a position to win, earning two match points on Paulus's service. She contrived to lose the next ten points, though, called for the trainer at the next changeover and pulled out in the third set with the score at 6-4, 6-7, 1-3.

All of which puts her preparation for the French Open on hold, and having lost the points earned as a finalist here last year, she will drop out of the top ten in Monday's new ranking list.

"It is not serious enough that I would miss the French," she said, "but I didn't want to take any chances. I haven't played as many matches as I would have liked before Paris. I will have to take a few days'

rest and wait and see." Even Martina Hingis, who has not lost since she came to Europe for the clay-court season, was not her usual jaunty self as she faced Silvia Farina. The first set was wrapped up 6-0, in 19 minutes, but then Hingis's mind started to wander. Serving at 5-3, she was broken, thanks to a double fault, and had to work harder than she had imagined to go through 6-0, 7-5.

"I started easily and quickly, but, at 5-3, I wasn't as concentrated," she said. "After two full tournaments, I was a little tired and not focusing. But today was my worst day - tomorrow will be better."

-Sana Novotna will need to be a lot better if she is to live up to her No 3 seeding. She snuffed for more than 2½ hours to get the better of Barbara Schett. With both women seemingly intent on giving the match away, Novotna saved four match points at 4-5 in the third set before going through 1-6, 7-6, 7-6. But at least by the time of her next outing, Bill Clinton will have left town.

At the head of the fleet, Grant Dalton, on Merit Cup, and Paul Standbridge, on Toshiba, were still going head to head with only 1½ miles between them. Dalton, who was reaching in a southwesterly breeze of 15-20 knots, is still pushing hard for a stage win, despite colliding heavily with a whale on Tuesday.

Latest positions, page 49

HOCKEY: ENGLAND'S HOPES TAKE A KNOCK AS KEY STRIKER BREAKS JAW

Cullen in doubt for World Cup

By Cathy Harris

TINA CULLEN, the in-form England striker, is struggling to be fit for the start of the World Cup finals in Utrecht next week after breaking her jaw against Australia on Tuesday. Cullen, 28, suffered the injury in the first half of the 2-2 draw with the world and Olympic champions when she was struck by a free hit from Renita Garrard.

The Hightown captain has recovered only recently from a serious cheekbone injury that caused her to miss two England games in a four-nations event in the United States a fortnight ago. Maggie Souyave, the England coach, said that Cullen's jaw had not been wired, adding: "She is not yet ruled out of the World Cup."

However, Sarah Blanks, the Leicester forward, has been called up as a replacement for

the second match against Australia at Milton Keynes tonight and will also be in the 17-strong World Cup squad. Blanks, 22, is noted for her pace and has earned 16 caps since making her international debut against France in 1996.



Cullen: experience

England had Carolyn Reid, their goalkeeper, to thank for keeping them in the game on Tuesday after Cullen's stunning seventh-minute strike. However, Australia hit back to put the home side under sustained pressure, capitalising on two defensive errors to take a 2-1 lead at half-time through Karen Smith and Nicky Mott.

Reid's heroics after the break, including a penalty save in the 59th minute from Mott, continued to deny Australia before Jane Sixsmith grabbed a late equaliser when she nudged in Jane Smith's strike from England's third penalty corner.

Victory for England tonight would leave them unbeaten in nine internationals, a sequence that has included matches against Australia, India and Holland.

JUDO

Howey faces up to weighty problem

By John Goodbody

GREAT BRITAIN is bristling with prospective medal winners at the European championships, which start today in Oviedo, Spain. This is especially true of the women's events.

Kate Howey, the world middleweight champion and runner-up as Sportswoman of the Year in 1997, is the most likely to finish in the top three, although she has had to adjust her weight to cope with the new categories. She has taken six medals in the European championships, but never a gold.

The upper limits of the heavier divisions have been raised for both men and women, which is vexing for Howey, who had settled comfortably in the under-66kg middleweight division, in which she took a bronze medal in the 1992 Olympic Games. The limit of this class has been raised to 70kg, pitting Howey against Ulla Werbrouck, of Belgium, the Olympic champion. Howey, 24, showed

glimpses of her best form when she took the British Open title in Birmingham last month, defeating Isabelle Beauruelle, the former European champion, from France, in the process.

In the light-heavyweight division, which now has an upper limit of 78kg, Chloe Cowen has twice finished among the medals in the European championships and has the potential to do so again. So, too, could Karina Bryant, the heavyweight, who is only 19 but is more than 6ft tall and weighs 94kg. Her hip-throw can catapult even the most obstructive opponent over her back, some of whom will weigh 130kg.

Among the men, Graeme Randall, from Scotland, has beaten Johann Laats, of Belgium, the defending European light-middleweight champion, this year. By finishing fifth in the world championships last October, Randall has demonstrated that he has the temperament for the big occasion.

BOXING

Warren expectant over Hamed bout

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

NASEEM HAMED will make the eleventh defence of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight championship on July 18, but the opponent and arena are still being discussed by Frank Warren, the promoter, and HBO, the American cable television company that is backing Hamed.

Seth Abraham, the head of HBO, is in London for talks, but a voice as yet unheard could decide the choice of venue. Hamed's first child is expected in early June and the champion wants to be present at the birth and to be with Elisha, his wife, for a few weeks after that. While Warren is considering three possible locations in the United States, Sheffield looks the most likely city to stage the bout.

Warren said: "When Naz fights, he will go into camp and be away for 12 weeks and, as it is his first baby, I'm concerned that he should not be away for too long. The first

one is never on time, it's always a little bit late. It's been very difficult negotiating with opponents, but Naz wants to fight the best around. It will be a quality opponent and will be the biggest show I've ever put together, with four world titles on the bill."

Three opponents are on Warren's list: Kennedy McKinney and David Santos, of the United States, and Juan Marquez, of Mexico. McKinney, the WBO super-bantamweight champion, looks to be the most likely choice.

Steve Robinson, of Wales, will challenge Luisito Espinoza, of the Philippines, for the World Boxing Council featherweight title on the same bill. Hamed struck a blow yesterday for the Cancer Research campaign. He punched a hole in a "wall" of the new Gray Laboratory at Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, Middlesex, to mark a breakthrough with a new drug, Combretastatin, which will start clinical trials in October.

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST. SPORT Vision WEEKEND metro the times magazine meg@ THE TIMES



Scott last league match

Table with columns for BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOXING, CRICKET, CYCLING, FOOTBALL

لقدنا من الاصل



RUGBY UNION

World-class duo aim to bow out in style

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be a gala air at Vicarage Road tonight, but do not expect Saracens to have lost sight of the league and cup double that has danced tantalisingly in front of them all season...

Against Northampton, they will parade 14 of the players who started the Tetley's Bitter Cup final against Wasps last Saturday. If they win, as form suggests they should, they will stand one point ahead of Newcastle, whose final game is with Harlequins on Sunday.

The only amendment from Saturday is on the left wing, where Richard Wallace plays instead of Brendon Daniel, who has had to return home to New Zealand for his father's funeral...

TOP OF TABLE

Table with 5 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows for Newcastle and Saracens.

MATCHES TO COME: Saracens: Tonight v Northampton (h); Newcastle: Sunday v Harlequins (a).

Diprose said: "They have all been through the mill on one way or another in our run-in, but on the big occasion, their skill and knowledge have shown out."

Pienaar is still going through the mill in his native South Africa. Louis Luyt, who was forced into resignation as president of the South African Rugby Football Union last week...

SARACENS: G Johnson, R Constable, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace, M Lynagh, A Brown, G Goss, C Chuter, P Williams, P Johns, D Greenwood, B Sturman, F Pienaar, A Diprose.



Sella: last league match



Montgomerie plays his way out of a bunker in the pro-am tournament at The Oxfordshire before the Benson and Hedges International Open

Olazabal worries over drawing power

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TWELVE years ago, José Maria Olazabal stood on the practice ground at his home club in Fuenterabia, northern Spain. Watching closely while Olazabal demonstrated to a visitor how well he could control the ball was Jesús Arruti, the club professional, who had taught him all his golfing life.

Five draws. "Ten times the ball was struck with a crisp "thwack". Five times it veered to the right at the end of its flight and five times to the left. A grin spread across the face of Olazabal.

and not come worse than seventeenth in tournaments all season on his home continent. Olazabal has won £267,477 in Europe in 1998 and, with prize-money totalling £3 million at stake in the next three tournaments, he could, with good results in these events, make it extremely difficult for anyone to beat him to the Order of Merit.

big part of winning that tournament (the Masters) was my chipping and putting, which was extremely good. That was why I won. I was decent off the tee, nothing great, and I won the tournament around the greens, that's for sure.

"The good news for Olazabal is that The Oxfordshire, where the Benson and Hedges International Open starts this morning, does not have trees on the left from the tee, so he can fade his drives on to the fairway.

Davies seeks confidence boost

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

THE rain that had fallen for 12 days in Delaware stopped yesterday, much to the relief of most of those involved in the McDonald's LPGA Championship, which starts at the DuPont Country Club here today.

two cuts in the United States and was well adrift of Liselotte Neumann in Japan last week, said: "I've always been a very good putter, very consistent, but I now I can stand over a three or four-footer and not know what's going to happen. It's starting to affect my ball-striking, because I'm standing over a shot and thinking I've got to hole it because, if I end up 30 feet away, I'll walk on to the green saying: 'Here comes another bogey.'"

On a more practical note, Davies decided to put cack-handed in Japan, the first time that she had gripped the putter with the left hand below the right for an entire event.

"His [Olazabal's] driving is a weakness," Montgomerie said of his Ryder Cup colleague. "I would like to hole out the way he does, though. Thank God he can't draw the ball, because his iron play and chipping and putting is God-like, so we are fortunate that he is not hitting fairways all the time."

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL: NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 6, Colorado 0. Cincinnati 1, Atlanta 2. Houston 4, Florida 2. St Louis 6, Milwaukee 5. Toronto 3, Philadelphia 5. Postponed: San Diego v New York Mets, San Francisco v Montreal.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham and Hook 1, Chesham 2, Farnham 1. Division One: Chesham 1, Chesham 2, Farnham 1.

Leaders after two rounds: 134: N Rodenas, 69, 65, 138; R Wiggall, 69, 70, R Hand, 67; 71: B. J. Baker, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Second-round play-off: Eastern Conference: New England Patriots 27, Buffalo Bills 10. Western Conference: St Louis 2, Detroit 2.

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Pontypool 22, Newport 13. Second division: Aberystwyth 19, Swansea 17. ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Roma 36, Lazio 27, Fiorentina 27, Lazio 27.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Semi-finals: Czech Republic 2, Finland 4. Czech Republic 1, Finland 4.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

York: Going: good. 2.06 (5f), STUPPED (L Lucas, 6-1), 2. Brad Edge (Pat Eddery, 11-1), 3. Lancelotti (J Cochran, 7-1), 4. Tadio (M Roberts, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5 fms Twice As Sharp, 7. Blessingindignus (R), Carvee Heat (S), Double Oscar, 11 Square Corrie, 12 Levelled, 25 Cumberland Canoe, Sylvia Paradise, Zuhar, 33 Happy Days, Agapan, Jaymeson, Sanderford Dream, 16 nm, NR, Lugo Di Varano, 16 nm, 14f, hd, M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Total: £4,700. £1,400, £2,400, £2,900. DF: £250. TRF: £107.80. CSF: £59.77. Tricast: £758.36.

Chesham: Going: good to firm. 2.15 (2m 4f 110yd) hd, 1. BAD BERTHOUD (M Williams, 12-1), 2. The Pickled Duke (S Wynne, 16-1), 3. Massanutta Slip (P McCoy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7 fms Silver Star (H), 8 nm, 14f, hd, M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Total: £1,500.80. Quodpot: £80.50.

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Linfield Park: Going: good to firm (soft course), standard(AW). 2.25 (2m 4f 110yd) hd, 1. Agave (N Pollard, 14-1), 2. Marnie's Jewel (S-1), 3. Mister Aspetto (4-7), 7 nm, 7f, 4f, J Moore. Total: £4,500. £2,200, £2,300. DF: £18.40. CSF: £27.29.

Huntingdon: Going: good to firm. 8.05 (2m 5f 110yd) hd, 1. Pingo Hill (T Bow, 9-1), 2. Look in the Mirror (4-1), 3. Pecos Gem (35-1), 4. Chapin (14-1). Total: £1,500. £2,200, £2,300. DF: £18.40. CSF: £27.29.

Perth: Going: good to firm. 8.15 (2m 4f 110yd) hd, 1. Victor Laszlo (A Dobbin, 20-1), 2. The Millionaire (9-1), 3. Ooh Ah Comora (7-4), 17 nm, 11f, 13f, R Allan. Total: £2,100. £1,600, £1,500. DF: £20.80. CSF: £32.50.

SPORT IN BRIEF

O'Sullivan drug-test leak leads to inquiry

SNooker: An inquiry is to be launched into the leaking of secret drug-test results that implicated Ronnie O'Sullivan, the United Kingdom champion. O'Sullivan is alleged to have tested positive for cannabis during a tournament in Ireland six weeks ago. The second part of the sample is due to be examined in London today.

Football: England will seek their first victory over Norway, the world champions, tonight in the vital women's World Cup group two qualifier at Boundary Park, Oldham. England have strengthened their squad since losing to Italy last month. Kelly Smith, the former Arsenal striker, who is playing and studying in the United States, comes in along with Sarah Reed, the 18-year-old Arsenal goalkeeper, who is a replacement for Rachel Brown, of Liverpool, who is studying for A levels.

Rugby Union: Dick Muir, the South Africa centre, has been forced to retire after being injured playing for Western Stormers against Auckland. Muir, 33, lost feeling in a leg and an arm and has been told that he risks paralysis if he continues playing.

Football: An judge in Argentina yesterday suspended national league matches because of safety concerns at stadiums due to hooliganism. Responding to escalating violence, the judge, Victor Perrotta, said that he would stand by his ruling until "the security of the public [at matches] is guaranteed."

EQUESTRIANISM

Fine-tuned Windsor top of class

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IT MAY have lost the Nations' Cup to Hickstead, but the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which begins today in Home Park, near Windsor Castle, has never looked healthier. Redesigned, repackaged and with a new overall sponsor in Asprey, Windsor is ready to uphold its tradition as the largest and most popular outdoor equestrian show.

In addition to Asprey's four-year backing, there are 15 new sponsors, providing the finance that has been used to make the showground's four arenas more compact. "It will be the best show yet," Simon Brooks-Ward, the director, predicted.

John Whitaker heads the list of British showjumpers competing for the £10,000 prize-money. There are also 16 foreign riders, notably Peter Charles, the former European champion from Ireland. With the loss of the Nations' Cup - which Brooks-Ward rescued last year when Hickstead failed to get sponsorship, but then had to relinquish after the British Show Jumping Association voted last September to return it to the Sussex venue - the highlight of the international classes is the £40,000 Asprey Grand Prix on Sunday.

Whitaker is resting Gramusch after his heroic display in the World Cup final last month, but he has two in-form horses in Virtual Village Hunter's Level, a prolific winner of speed classes, and Diamond Chip. The latter, a 10-year-old Irish-bred gelding, on which he won classes in Bologna and Maastricht last December, less than a month after he started riding him, tuned up for Windsor with a win in the grand prix at Leicester last week.



History offers convenient smokescreen for modern heroes

# Ifs and butts over Gascoigne

**W**e long for our sporting heroes to be supermen — players who can apparently defy the laws of nature and still come out winning and grinning.

The image of the sportsman who can gorge on every kind of forbidden fruit yet still play hard enough to triumph has always had seductive appeal. So Paul Gascoigne, the England footballer, outed this week as Gasping Gazza, puffing his way through 20 cigarettes a day, is in a long tradition. Just as old were the coughs and splutters of indignation that followed the announcement.

The excuses and smoke-screens thrown up by Glenn



LEO YOGELZANG



Warne would be able to stage his own version of the Ashes

... but there were dire warnings to sportsmen more than a century ago. Writing the definitive guide to training for football and athletics in the 1880s, Montague Shearman's advice was clear: "No smoking. It will shorten the wind ... it is totally incompatible with the cultivation of athletic excellence."

Yet, from the earliest days, the more trainers laid down rules about smoking, the more players were fired up to challenge them. The bad boys of sport, like Gascoigne, who dare to pull on their cigarettes as well as their boots are all too often seen as endearingly red-blooded and roguish.

The idea of a cigarette as an after-game reward for a sportsman is a popular idea and has led to some remarkable treatment of the sporting hero. Thirty-one years ago, Keith Jarrett made his rugby union debut at the age of 19 for Wales and scored 19 of their 34 winning points against England. He celebrated hard and missed the last bus home.

One of the depot drivers offered to take him the eight miles home in a bus. Setting out on the unscheduled run with his sole passenger, the driver was halted by an inspector.

"I'm taking Mr Jarrett home," the driver explained. "He just scored 19 points against England." "You fool," the inspector snapped. "Go back and get a double-decker — the lad might want to smoke."

JOHN BRYANT

## FIXTURES

**CRICKET**  
**Vodafone Challenge Series**  
 11.0, first day of three  
**WORCESTERSHIRE**: Worcestershire v South Africans  
**Essex**: Essex v Lancashire  
**DERBYSHIRE**: Derbyshire v Warwickshire  
**ESSEX**: Essex v Derbyshire  
**BRISTOL**: Gloucestershire v Somerset  
**SOUTHAMPTON**: Hampshire v Surrey  
**CANTERBURY**: Kent v Lancashire  
**LONDON**: Middlesex v Somerset  
**NORTHAMPTON**: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
**TRENT BRIDGE**: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

**FOOTBALL**  
**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION**: First division: Brighton v Arsenal (at Woking FC, 7.30)  
**SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP** (second day of three): Chelmsford: Essex v Gloucestershire; Tottenham: Somerset v Northamptonshire; The Ours: Surrey v Lancashire; Park Avenue, Bradford: Kent v Northamptonshire.  
**NON THROTTLE** (on day): Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire.

**RUGBY UNION**  
 Allied Dunbar Premiership First division: Saracens v Northampton (7.45)

**OTHER SPORT**  
**SQUETTERING**: Royal Windsor Horse Show  
**HOCKEY**: Commonwealth Challenge: New Zealand v New Zealand (8.30)  
**WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**: England v Australia (10.30, both at Milton Keynes)  
**SPEEDWAY**: Premier League Cup: Sheffield v Glasgow (7.45)

## WORD-WATCHING

**PANGA**  
 (a) A flat-bottomed boat with rising stem and stern. In American Spanish, *panga* is a boat.  
**RIRORIRO**  
 (a) The New Zealand grey warbler, *Gerygone olivata*, a small wren-like bird belonging to the subfamily Mniotiltidae of the family Muscicapidae.

**PADKOS**  
 (a) Food for the journey. Provisions. The Afrikaans *pad* road + *kos* (Dutch) food.

**SACCADE**  
 (a) A brief rapid movement of the eye from one position of rest to another, whether voluntary (as in reading) or involuntary (as when a point is fixated).

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Re5; 2. Nf3; 3. Bc4; 4. Qc2; 5. Kd2; 6. Bc3.

## TELEVISION CHOICE

### Changing pace of medicine

**Doctors At Large**  
**BBC2, 9.00pm**  
 Those of us who saw the forerunner of this series first met Jane Gilbert as a 17-year-old from Swansea nervously justifying her passion for Shakespeare to an interview panel. That was in 1984. She has since qualified as a doctor, married and with thoughts of starting a family decided that being a GP would suit her better than a career in hospital medicine. She is one of the best GPs you could hope to meet, enormously sympathetic with very old and very young alike. But then the baby arrives and suddenly work seems less important. Of the other two young doctors featured tonight, Euse Stacey is also a GP and David Copping intends to become one when he has passed his exams. But, like Gilbert, both have reassessed their priorities before the programme is out.



Prevention or cause? (BBC2, 9.30pm)

**Horizon: The Gulf War Syndrome**  
**BBC2, 9.30pm**  
 Seven years on from the conflict with Saddam Hussein there is still no official admission of a Gulf War Syndrome responsible for leaving hundreds of veterans, and in some cases their children, suffering from disease or disability. Deborah Cadbury's film does not claim to clear the matter up in a mere 50 minutes but it presents a cool look at the scientific evidence while also looking into accusations that governments, British and American, have "lost" crucial data and been slow in initiating necessary research. One by one the main suspects are put in the dock and subjected to expert scrutiny, whether toxic fumes from burning oil wells, radiation sickness or exposure to nerve gas. Some troops got ill without even going to the Gulf, the case for looking afield at vaccinations. Perhaps significantly, these were not given during the recent Gulf crisis.

Tonight's featured vehicle is a Bristol 400 and the recurring character in its story is Brian May, a vintage car enthusiast from Birmingham. He first came across the car nearly 30 years ago. It has been back to his restoration yard five times and he has sold it each time to a different person. Now Richard Latham, a doctor, has broken the sequence. He bought the car from May in 1972 when he was a medical student, sold it back six years later and bought it for a second time in 1995.

**Several Careful Owners**  
**BBC2, 10.30pm**  
 For most of us a car is no more exciting than a fridge or a washing machine and bought for much the same purpose, to give reliable service with the least trouble. This series of ten-minute films in a very different kind of genre and not about the cars that 99 per cent of the population buys.

**Israel 50: The Spy Machine**  
**Channel 4, 11.45pm**  
 A film about Mossad, the Israeli secret service, reveals an organisation distrusted by politicians and sapped by low morale after a series of blunders. But it was not always so. Founded to protect Israel from its enemies, it was widely respected, if not always applauded, for its cold efficiency. Thanks to Mossad, Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi exterminator of the Jews, was tracked down in Argentina and brought back to Israel to face trial. We get a first-hand account from the man who captured him. When 11 Israeli athletes were murdered at the Munich Olympic Games, Mossad was given a licence to kill by Golda Meir, the Prime Minister, and ten Palestinians were sacrificed in revenge. Mossad's success in spying missions in Switzerland caused a diplomatic incident and Mossad's hawkish culture sits uneasily with the peace process. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

**Strange Weather Days**  
**Radio 4, 9.30am**  
 I find it odd that so many people are interested in gazing skywards in search of UFOs, given that most of these items usually turn out to be a halitose back lit by the sun on a July day. Why bother with Martians in a climate like ours? This new series launches an exciting quest for alien life on the head and seen fronting weather forecasts on radio and television. Here she travels around the country talking to people who have witnessed strange meteorological phenomena, such as two consecutive sunny days in the school summer holidays. She begins today with the terrible 'Reds' strike. East Anglia in February 1953, killing more than 100 people and devastating hundreds of square miles of land.

**David Gower's Cricket Weekly**  
**Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm**  
 The former England captain and peerless exponent of elegant batting returns for another season of the series that helps to restore his credibility after the absurdly unjustified loss of BBC Television's *The Test Match Special*. The quiz show for cricketers, Gower is far too civilised a chap for that sort of thing, which is perhaps why he spends most of the programme looking bemused and silently waiting for something intelligent to happen. *Cricket Weekly*, if this series is like the last one, is where Gower sounds much more at home. The programme is a mix of news and reviews but the best part of it is usually the studio chat in which Gower talks to various players, coaches and officials about the state of the game. Peter Barnard

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 12 Wilko Includes 12.05pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 The Evening Session From Dublin, the conclusion of the M-Fly Europe campaign 8.30 Live Music Update with Caroline Johnson 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

## WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Insight 7.30 Melkian Books 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 Hot New Country 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 You and the Law 10.30 Network 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsbeat 12.30pm The Learning World 12.45 From Our Own Correspondent 1.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 1.05 World Service 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00pm The World 2.15pm News 2.30pm Newsbeat 2.45pm The World 3.00pm News 3.15pm Newsbeat 3.30pm News 3.45pm Newsbeat 4.00pm News 4.15pm Newsbeat 4.30pm News 4.45pm Newsbeat 5.00pm News 5.15pm Newsbeat 5.30pm News 5.45pm Newsbeat 6.00pm News 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm News 6.45pm Newsbeat 7.00pm News 7.15pm Newsbeat 7.30pm News 7.45pm Newsbeat 8.00pm News 8.15pm Newsbeat 8.30pm News 8.45pm Newsbeat 9.00pm News 9.15pm Newsbeat 9.30pm News 9.45pm Newsbeat 10.00pm News 10.15pm Newsbeat 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# On the swings and roundabouts of royalty

The tricky thing with one-offs, as antique dealers will tell you, is that there can be lots of them. Take Princess Di. She used to be a one-off. Now she's just one of several Di-style princesses through the ages. Last month, Vienna held a week-long celebration of its beloved Empress Elisabeth (known as "Sisi"), who became famous for rebelling against stuffy court life, winning the battle against her estranged husband, Emperor Franz Josef, for the right to bring up their children, taking solace in charity work, and then dying tragically stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist in 1898; in case any Austrian still missed the message, there was even an exhibition called "Sisi and Diana - Two Royal Fates. Two Idols of Their Time".

Then last night Michael Cole - the BBC's former royal correspondent and, later, Mohamed al Fayed's spokesman - began his

piece for a new series of *Leviathan* (BBC2) with the tease: "This is the story of a princess. She was beautiful, she was tall, and when she looked at you with her startling blue eyes, strong men were known to grow weak at the knees. The princess was only 19 when she met and married a Prince of Wales who was older and far more worldly. With her natural star quality she became an immediate leader of high society. The princess's name was... what, Michael, what? Diana? Sisi? No... "The princess's name was Alexandra."

Nor did Cole neglect to mention the other parallels between Princess Di and Edward VII's much adored wife (much adored by the public, that is. When she wanted to be adored by the womanising Edward she had to join a long queue). Michael Cole reminded us that: "Gladstone observed, 'The Queen is invisible and the Prince

of Wales is not respected'. Their salvation was Alexandra. She alone was cheered, always exquisitely dressed, rapidly becoming the icon of royal popularity." Oh yes, and "She made charity fashionable." Maybe, like Halley's comet, a new Diana-style princess suddenly hurries into view every 76 years or so.

The other half of *Leviathan* was hijacked by Carl Chinn, a Brummie historian who was trying frantically to sell us the charms of Birmingham (civic motto: "Look, we saw the funny side of Crossroads, too") ahead of the arrival there of President Clinton and other world leaders for this week's G8 summit.

The problem is that Birmingham tries too hard to be liked, which only raises people's suspicions. Chinn - who speaks in the precarious local accent that requires Brummies to replace any

## REVIEW



vowel in a word with two other, randomly chosen vowels - sounded like a market trader luring shoppers towards a barrowful of dodgy merchandise.

Jeffrey Archer also tries too hard. Like Birmingham, he is rich and successful in spite of all the jokes people make at his expense. Last night's *Omnibus*: Jeffrey Archer - The Self-Made Man (BBC1) steered the wise course of

interviewing just enough of his critics to throw grit into the ointment, but stopping well short of painting Archer as a buffoon. It's as pointless getting upset about Jeffrey Archer as it is getting upset about the weather. There's nothing you can do about either of them. They are forces of Nature. "He's uncrushable," John Major told us. Fay Weldon, treading that tightrope between admiration and astonishment, said: "There's nobody like him. He's just a one-off."

Of course he's a slightly preposterous publicity-seeker. But he knows that himself, and doesn't seem to care. He talks like a bad actor trying to be Jeffrey Archer, complete with exaggerated facial gestures designed to carry to the back of the upper circle.

Michael Crick, his unauthorised biographer, told us: "He operates in a funny kind of fantasy world. He finds it very difficult to distinguish between the truth and what

isn't the truth and what he'd like to be the truth and what he's seen in fiction. All these things get jumbled up somehow." By living in a house of mirrors, Archer defies observers to believe what they see. He has been accused of embroidering his CV, of paying off a prostitute, of purloining an idea for a story from the winning entry of a short-story competition he was judging, of insider dealing.

But nothing sticks. If they could use Archer's skin as the outer shield of the Challenger space shuttle, the craft would be able to deflect any meteor that the solar system threw at it. Like many other men dogged by controversy, Jeffrey Archer has been saved by having an attractive and intelligent wife. But you also have to admire a man who decides to write a bestseller after going broke, and then succeeds - even

though he lacks any discernible literary talent.

Explaining his novel-writing technique, he says he is "trying to set up, even in the first paragraph, a set of questions that make people think. 'I'd better read the second paragraph, maybe I'll get another clue.' You're trying to take them on, teasing them till you get to the end of the first chapter, when you leave them with a line that says, 'I think I'll just read the first line of the second chapter.' That could easily serve as the story of his life: he's always keeping us guessing as to just what he might get up to next.

Does he have any regrets? Apparently none. "What's the point of regretting," he berates the interviewer, in a tone that is both defensive and aggressive. "It's me sitting in this house with 50 million in the bank, not you?" Yup, there he goes again: trying just slightly too hard to sell us his success story.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (28065)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (21375)
  - 9.00 Change That a kitchen makeover, transforming children's furniture (8175085)
  - 9.25 Kilroy (1) (5551068)
  - 10.05 A Date with Fate (7523337)
  - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8201153)
  - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (4296608)
  - 11.35 The General Health tips from Southampton General Hospital (6591988)
  - 12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (9940172)
  - 12.05pm Wogan's Web With Tery Wogan (9949068)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) and weather (24462)
  - 1.30 Regional News (1) (1374406)
  - 1.40 The Weather Show (2214742)
  - 1.45 Neighbours Things look bleak for Ben as his life hangs in the balance (1) (9573706)
  - 2.10 Through the Keyhole Guests Fern Britton, Andy Gray and Toyah Wilcock (79925375)
  - 2.40 International Golf More from the opening 18 holes of the Benson & Hedges Open at the Oxfordshire (9946820)
  - 3.30 Playdays (1) (8206563) 3.50 The Littlest Show (2651801) 4.00 Fievel's American Tales (1) (5682424) 4.25 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (1) (8210578) 4.40 Goosebumps (1) (2740733)
  - 5.00 Newsworld (1) (4360581)
  - 5.10 No Sweat (1) (8213443)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (856646)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (207)
  - 6.30 Regional News (1) (559)
  - 7.00 Watchdog: On the House Advice on buying a property before its foundations have been laid (1) (8511)
  - 7.30 EastEnders A lace from the past looks set to ruin Terry and Irene's big day (1) (443)
  - 8.00 Animal Hospital Liz Forbes attends to a Labrador puppy with sore eyes, Tessa Bailey treats a cockatiel which keeps pulling out its feathers (1) (4559)
  - 8.30 Keeping Mum (1) (3065)
  - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) and weather (3288)
  - 9.30 Men Behaving Badly develops an interest in astrology (1) (21424)
  - 10.00 The Ben Elton Show (1) (16004)
  - 10.30 Smith and Jones (1) (92424)
  - 11.00 Question Time with Scottish Secretary of State Donald Dewar, Chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party Raymond Robertson and Liberal Democrat Charles Kennedy (933337)
  - 12.05am Cry in the Wild: The Talking of Peggy Ann (1991) with David Morse, Megan Follows, David Soul. A psychotic mountain man kidnaps a girl with the express intention of training her to become his wife. Directed by Charles Correll (2612688)
  - 1.35 Weather (3347115)
  - 2.10 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 6.10am Pathfinding In the Brain (3432240) 6.35 Seasonal Affective Disorder (5693511)
  - 7.00 Teletubbies (9802288) 7.25 Tom and Jerry Kids 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (1) 8.15 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (1) (1) 8.30 Rainy Jeremy 8.45 The Record (4120172)
  - 9.10 Go for It! (2947627) 9.25 Mad About Music (2671004) 9.45 Come Outside (7518153)
  - 10.00 Teletubbies (87443) 10.30 Storytime (8411443) 10.45 The Experimenter (3064207) 11.05 Space Ark (9087917) 11.15 Zig Zag (9248917) 11.35 TV: Friend or Foe? (8508288) 11.55 Lifeschool (9241917)
  - 12.30pm Working Lunch (32530) 1.00 The Family News (1) (14422733) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (14421004)
  - 1.10 The Countryside Hour (1829207)
- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (9726559)
  - 9.25 This Morning (1) (4593812)
  - 9.30 Vanessa (1) (2326801)
  - 10.10 This Morning (1) (28155917)
  - 12.15pm Regional News (6135862)
  - 12.30 News (1) and weather (36356)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (19530)
  - 1.30 Home and Away (1) (35627)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (3172714)
  - 2.45 Waffle Quiz (1) (750068)
  - 3.15 News (1) (3367801)
  - 3.20 Regional News (1) (3364714)
  - 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (3364377) 3.35 The Slow Norris (1) (8225004) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1) (2665004) 3.50 Cartoon Time (1) (591172) 3.55 Soapy and Co (1) (1) (4269068) 4.20 Brand Spanking New Dog (1) (8257627) 4.40 The Ward (1) (1) (4922646)
  - 5.10 A Country Practice (6576004)
  - 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (1) and weather (74828)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (158917)
  - 6.25 Wales Tonight (1) (336511)
  - 6.25 HTV Weather (78065)
  - 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (827)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale Pollard is forced to take drastic action (1) (3207)
  - 7.30 WALES: Inquisition (511)
  - 7.30 We Can Work It Out (511)

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  - 7.30 WALES: Inquisition (511)
  - 7.30 We Can Work It Out (511)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00pm A Country Practice (19530)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (3172714)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6576004)
  - 6.25 Central News (133608)
  - 6.55-7.00 Lifestile (195733)
  - 10.40 Dharma and Greg (352269)
  - 11.10 Friday Night Fave (404462)
  - 11.40 Still in Bed with McDiarmid (383630)
  - 12.10am Tales from the Crypt (8904196)
  - 1.25 Not Fade Away (6524778)
  - 2.25 Customs Classified (2237318)
  - 3.10 Box Office America (9913963)
  - 3.35 We Can Work It Out (65815625)
  - 4.00 Central Jobfinder '98 (8376467)
  - 5.20 Asian Eye (1300844)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (8954375)
  - 1.00 Emmerdale (19530)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (3172714)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6576004)
  - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (44375)
  - 10.30 Westcountry News (236563)
  - 10.45 Absolutely Laddied (234559)
  - 11.15 Pulling Power (224172)
  - 11.45 Midnight Caller (427998)

- CENTRAL**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (11795)
  - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (14065)
  - 9.00 Schools: History in Action (265437)
  - 9.20 Geographical Eye (2667801) 9.40 Equinox (1104462) 10.35 News of the Week (8405882) 10.50 Express (8294578) 11.00 Geography Junction (2601639) 11.15 Geography Junction (2601639)
  - 11.30 Powerhouse (3761) 12.00 Sesame Street (87135) 12.30pm Light Lunch (1) (35882) 1.30 Twentieth Century Hall of Fame: Laurel and Hardy (22174578) 1.35 The Three Stooges (95116330)
  - 1.55 Racing from York The 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races (7982511)
  - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (240) 4.30 Countdown (1) (1075882) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Ricki, What Would You Do With Found Money (1) (8645608) 5.30 Pat Rescues (1) (284) 6.00 Rescuers (1) (1) (917) 6.30 Hollyoaks (1) (269)
  - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (932917)
  - 7.50 Photo '98 The use of photomicrography to create abstract images (1) (26369)
  - 8.00 Celebrity Countdown With Jilly Godden, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Lord Litchfield (1) (7269)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (11795)
  - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (14065)
  - 9.00 Schools: History in Action (265437)
  - 9.20 Geographical Eye (2667801) 9.40 Equinox (1104462) 10.35 News of the Week (8405882) 10.50 Express (8294578) 11.00 Geography Junction (2601639) 11.15 Geography Junction (2601639)
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  - 7.50 Photo '98 The use of photomicrography to create abstract images (1) (26369)
  - 8.00 Celebrity Countdown With Jilly Godden, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Lord Litchfield (1) (7269)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am News and sport (3215085)
  - 7.00am World: The Shrinking Earth (1) (1) (340846)
  - 7.30 Milkshake! (3347820) 7.35 Wmzie's House (1) (727191) 8.00m Havaqqaw (1828282) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1891153)
  - 9.00 Wild World of the East (1) (1) (1805733) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (9673608)
  - 10.20 Sunset Beach Ricardo begins to doubt that Annie's car was stolen (1) (4471117)
  - 11.10 Lezza (1858207)
  - 12.00 News (1892268)
  - 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4593627)
  - 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila is cornered in prison (1) (3408917)
  - 1.30 Sons and Daughters Fiona makes a momentous decision; and Angie makes an upsetting discovery (4589598)
  - 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (218424) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1853917)
  - 3.30 The Wild and the Innocent (1959) Starring Julie Murphy as a country boy who meets up with a mountain girl on his way to the big city. However, the two soon discover that they're not exactly suited to life in the big smoke. Also with Joanne Dru and Sandra Dee. Directed by Jack Sher (3649482)
  - 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (924882)
  - 6.00 100 Per Cent (2699733)
  - 6.30 Family Affairs Annie receives Helen's engagement ring as a gift (1) (2680085)
  - 7.00 News (1) (1855988)
  - 7.30 Wild World of the East: The Ogasawara Islands Non-native species threatening the eco-system (1) (2686269)



Bernhard Langer defends (2.10pm)



Beach on the job in Brighton (8pm)



Advice from Monty Don



Jeffery and Heathcote (8pm)

**VIDEO PLUS+ and VIDEO PLUS+ codes**

The number at the end of each program is the VIDEO PLUS+ code. To see the VIDEO PLUS+ code for a program, look for the VIDEO PLUS+ code in the program's description. For more details call VIDEO PLUS+ on 0640 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute at all times. VIDEO PLUS+ is a registered trademark of GSP Development Corporation. © 1998

**2.10 International Golf Live coverage from day one of the Benson and Hedges International Open at the Oxfordshire, where German Bernhard Langer is defending his title (7992917)**

**2.40 News (1) Regional News and Weather (8788443) 2.45 Westminster with Anne MacLennan (7885511) 3.25 News (1) Regional News and Weather (3376559)**

**3.30 International Golf Steve Rider introduces further coverage (16269)**

**5.30 Today's Day (608) 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager The crew discover a small wormhole during a search for space anomalies and make contact with the Alpha Quadrant (1) (196191) 6.45 Third Rock from the Sun. Sully takes an instant liking to Tommy's teacher (1) (1) (488511)**

**7.30 Out and About: Paintballing; flamenco dancing (135) Wales: Wideness Walks**

**8.00 Wilderness Walks Baifu Island (1) (1) (5801) WALES: On The House**

**8.30 Top Gear The new Ford Cougar, the supercharged Jaguar XJ6, bargain right-hand drive motors abroad (1) (1608)**

**9.00 Doctors at Large Pressure soon mounts for the three new doctors (1) (4530)**

**9.30 The Arabian What caused Gulf War Syndrome, from which 70,000 British and American veterans have suffered? (1) (173085)**

**10.20 Several Careful Owners Brian may sing the praises of a Bristol 400 (1) (313578)**

**10.30 Newsworld (1) (37927) 11.15 Late Review (675004) 11.55 Weather (648482) 12.00 The Midnight Hour with Tariq Ali and guests (24626)**

**12.30am Learning Zone: Containing the Pacific (85778) 1.00 The Black Triangle (82009) 1.30 A New Sun is Born (20757) 2.00 Changing Roles (58776) 4.00 Film Education (72733) 4.30 Masterclasses on Production (96202) 5.00 Teaching and Learning with IT (5498950)**

**8.00 The Bill: Brighton Rocks Beach wangles an expense-paid trip to Brighton (1/2) (1) (9627)**

**8.30 Undercover Customs: Operation Barbecue (1) (1482)**

**9.00 Touching Evil The team must find a serial killer before he can kill again (2/2) (1) (4269)**

**10.00 News at Ten (1) and weather (37612)**

**10.30 Regional News (1) (236563)**

**10.45 WALES: Barry Welsh is Coming Spoof chat show (234559)**

**10.45 The Plain (1) (234559)**

**11.15 WALES: Strangely Scientific (1) (224172)**

**11.15 The West This Week (224172)**

**11.45 WALES: We Can Work It Out (1) (223443)**

**11.45 The Guest List (1) (223443)**

**12.15am Tales from the Darkside (7842573)**

**12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (8907405)**

**1.25 SFX (1953047)**

**1.55 Pop Under the Pub (2352370)**

**2.25 Not Fade Away (4193196)**

**3.20 The Chart Show (1) (2407889)**

**3.35 Vanessa (1) (1) (9898414)**

**4.30 Cybernet (1) (17213009)**

**4.55 TV Nightscreen (5242541)**

**5.30 News (96841)**

**As HTV West except:**

**12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9958191)**

**1.00-1.30 Surprise Streets (19530)**

**5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6576004)**

**6.23 Anglia Weather (767714)**

**6.25 Anglia News (133608)**

**6.55-7.00 What's On (195733)**

**10.25 Anglia Air Watch (855207)**

**10.40 K1062 Anglia Enterprise Awards 1998 (103511)**

**11.40 Midnight Caller (169482)**

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**10.40 K1062 Anglia Enterprise Awards 1998 (103511)**

**11.40 Midnight Caller (169482)**

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Tainted Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (52529) 7.30 Games World (99413) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 8.30 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 9.30 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 10.30 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (99413) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (99413)
- SKY BOX OFFICE**
- View a pay-per-view movie catalogue. To view any film telephone 0980 600065. Each film costs £2.99 per view.
- SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 29)**
- View a pay-per-view movie catalogue. To view any film telephone 0980 600065. Each film costs £2.99 per view.
- SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)**
- View a pay-per-view movie catalogue. To view any film telephone 0980 600065. Each film costs £2.99 per view.
- SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58)**
- View a pay-per-view movie catalogue. To view any film telephone 0980 600065. Each film costs £2.99 per view.
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1**
- 6.00am The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1988) (121mil) (8505424) 6.05 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.10 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.15 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.20 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.25 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.30 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.35 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.40 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.45 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.50 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 6.55 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424) 7.00 Memories of Me (1989) (8505424)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen

- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen

- EUROSPORT**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- UK GOLD**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- GRANADA PLUS**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- CARTOON NETWORK**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- NICKELODEON**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- FOX KIDS NETWORK**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- BRavo**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- PARAMOUNT COMEDY**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- HOME & LEISURE**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- DISCOVERY**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- LIVING**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen

- SKY SPORTS 1**
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- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77025) 6.05 Munchausen
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 6.00am The Benefits of Sherwood Forest (1946) (839mil) (77





CRICKET 46-47 Ealham rallies Kent after Lancashire strike

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 14 1998

RUGBY UNION 49

Sella aiming to go out on a high note



No. 66,202

Good University Guide

Triumph of a former party pages 36, 37

All violent

Blair peace for S

By MASON

TONY BLAIR... as the... the... day... account... Blair... M... write... agreement... As... reassure... about... is... one... of... security... four... day... Michael... ed... the... attached... IRA's... Million... the... in... present... served... attend... port... of... the... U... the... which... r... S... the... of... the... appeared... content... Since... the... ovation... of... from... discussion...

Briton brushed aside by Chilean's clay-court expertise

Rios runs Henman ragged

FROM JULIAN MUSCATT TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

TIM HENMAN was given a masterclass in the art of clay-court tennis by Marcelo Rios here yesterday, the Chilean sweeping Henman out of the Italian Open with consummate ease.

Rios was detained just 55 minutes as he laid bare Henman's frailties on this surface. His service, the bedrock of his victory, proved all but impregnable after Henman failed to convert an early break point that might have dented Rios's confidence. Rios lost only five more points in his remaining seven service games to run away with the match 6-3, 6-1. It was almost as though he had cast a spell over the hapless Briton.

For all Rios's superiority, Henman hardly helped his cause with a fitful display. Errors flowed in increasing abundance from a racket so assured in Henman's defeat of Fabrice Santoro on Monday.

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Instead, he tried to mix it and suffered a heavy defeat.

Henman said that Rios's all-court excellence never allowed him to get into the match. "When he gets ahead, he gets confident and starts hitting shots from all over the place," Henman said. In truth, Rios barely had to exert himself as Henman singularly failed to keep the ball in play. His spirit sagged noticeably and he looked relieved when Rios closed out the match with an ace.

This defeat ensured that neither Henman nor Greg Rusedski has advanced beyond the second round in the four clay-court tournaments that they have contested this year. Henman, less experienced, has made greater gains on the steep learning curve confronting both players, but this reverse put into clearer perspective his first-round victory over Santoro.

It also means that Henman is unlikely to be seeded in the French Open, which begins two weeks on Monday. This



Too hot to handle: Rios's all-court excellence saw him sweep to victory over Henman in under an hour at the Italian Open yesterday

would render him vulnerable to a bad draw, as he had here when he missed a seeded berth by one ranking place.

Rios, for his part, was blunt about the reasons for Henman's capitulation. "It is tough for him to play on clay, but he played too much from the baseline and made too many mistakes," Rios said.

Henman's approach was hard to comprehend. He initially enjoyed trading with Rios from the baseline in an

entertaining, if ill-conceived, opening. However, with the pattern thus set, Rios thrived on the pace that Henman continually offered him to gain confidence — after his enforced absence with an elbow injury — for stiffer tasks ahead.

Henman's doubles partner, Pete Sampras, overcame a second potentially difficult hurdle in 24 hours when he reversed the outcome of his previous meeting with Magnus Norman. Although Norman, of Sweden, ousted the American from the French Open last year, a similar outcome was never likely once Sampras snared the first-set tie-break 10-8. A flurry of aces

from the world No 1 enabled him to shake off Norman after the latter failed to capitalise on a couple of set points.

Sampras once again relished the heat. He might not thrive physically under a scorching sun, but his game improves immeasurably for the quicker balls. Such circumstances also improve his mental approach. Inclined to attack the wrong ball when conditions are against him, he was a model of discipline here, according to Norman due respect and trading baseline rallies to his heart's content.

The contest, won 7-6, 6-4, offered him ideal preparation for a potential marathon against his old adversary,

Michael Chang. That Chang should meet Sampras in the third round underlines just how far he has plummeted in the world rankings this year. Until recently, the pair would not have met until the final.

Chang was ranked No 2 for longer than he cares to be reminded. Now No 15, he is gradually recovering from cruciate ligament damage in his left knee, as he showed when he dismissed Arnaud Clement, of France, 7-5, 6-1.

Todd Martin, the third American in the second round, was the only one to fall after easily taking the first set against Yevgeni Kafelnikov. Martin looked home and dry when leading 4-2 in the second. He

was just two points from victory when Kafelnikov served at 6-5 and 30-0 down, but the Russian went on to win 1-6, 7-6, 6-3. Kafelnikov meets Richard Krajicek for a place in the quarter-finals.

It was a good day for the collective Spanish presence, if not for that country's principal standard-bearer. Exhaustion may have caught up with Alex Corretja, the defending champion and No 9 seed, who was toppled in three sets by Karim Alami, but Albert Costa, who profited from Corretja retiring in the Hamburg final on Sunday, joined compatriots Carlos Moyá, Alberto Berasategui and Fernando Vicente in the last 16.

Greenwood's blow adds to England woe

BY MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND'S already depleted tour party could be weakened further by the possible withdrawal of Will Greenwood, who will have exploratory keyhole surgery on an injured shoulder on Saturday.

A decision on whether the 25-year-old Leicester centre, who played in all eight of England's internationals this season, can travel will be made with Clive Woodward next week.

Meanwhile, as Australian rugby administrators continued to protest at the perceived weakness of the 37-man squad yesterday — one dubbed it the biggest sell-out by the English since Gallipoli — Richmond denied that it had tried to stop its players from touring this summer.

John O'Neill, the managing director of the Australian Rugby Union, claimed he had a letter dated April 27 in which the club had set pre-conditions before agreeing to release its players. Such evidence would be submitted to the International Rugby Board meeting in Dublin next Monday, to which the Rugby Football Union has been summoned.

Tony Hallett, the Richmond chief executive, agreed a letter had been sent to the squad, but it related primarily to the issue of potential union contracts. The letter it made clear that the club respected International Board regulations.

Richmond issued a press release yesterday, reaffirming that position. "Richmond's potential tourists are hot to trot and waiting by the phone. Scaremongering only makes the situation in the southern hemisphere nervous," it said.

Richmond believe the airing of the letter is part of a carefully orchestrated "dirty tricks campaign" designed to undermine the Mayfair peace accord before the Dublin meeting, at which sanctions against England might be sought. The club also believes the letter has been rendered irrelevant by the selection of its players for the tour.

domestic situation in England. The letter, signed by Donald Kerr, chairman of English First Division Rugby, stated categorically that the clubs were dedicated to the full release of all English- and northern hemisphere players and that no club would restrain or obstruct any player in pursuit of his national wish to attain international honours.

McGruther appears to have chosen to ignore this. He and others in the southern hemisphere, their fears stoked by individuals in England, remain suspicious of the role of the clubs, which they believe impinges on the primacy and viability of the international game.

Commercial reasons appear to be at the core of the Australians' mistrust. They fear that a squad without established names such as Lawrence Dallaglio, Martin Johnson, Kyran Bracken and Jeremy Guscott will have a disastrous bearing on ticket sales — which at present total

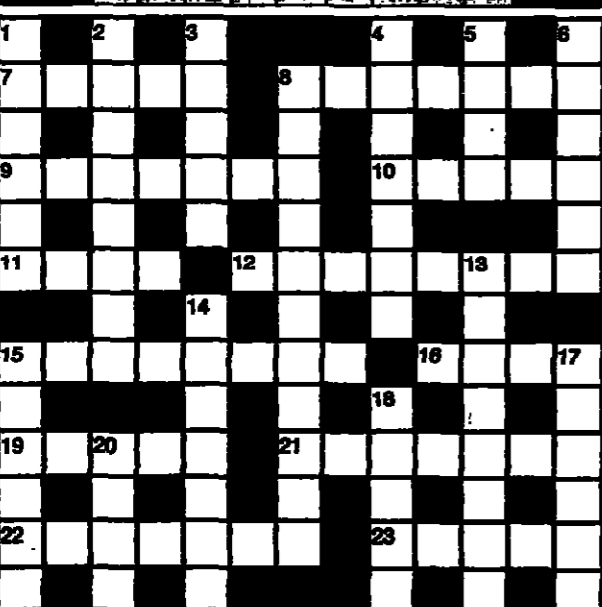


O'Neill: kept up attack

20,000 — for the international in Brisbane on June 6. Sales might be jeopardised, but it was Australia and New Zealand who were in the vanguard of professionalism, and they did not appear concerned about the well-being of Western Samoa when that country was unceremoniously dumped from what was the Super 10 competition.

Although Dick Moffie, the New Zealand RFU chief executive, joined in the chorus of disapproval, a more diplomatic line has been adopted by John Hart, the All Blacks coach. "We ourselves may have a number of new players in the test side so it's important we look at ourselves, not at the opposition."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1405

- ACROSS: 7 A cheek powder (5), 8 Forestall, counter (difficult) (7), 9 Henri —, Fauvist painter (7), 10 Sister to Goneril (Lea) (5), 11 Not done (socially) (3-1), 12 Legendary, great (loosey) (8), 15 Jumble of letters/numbers in address (8), 16 Lump of earth (4), 19 Lubricated (5), 21 Toffee-nosed (7), 22 Fall like a stone (7), 23 Imitator (5). DOWN: 1 US president, dropped Bomb (6), 2 Campaigning (platform) (5), 3 Desist (5), 4 Belated (7), 5 Venomous tooth (4), 6 Maynard —, economist (6), 8 (Case) easy to decide (4-3-4), 13 US state —, a musical (8), 14 Place of study (7), 15 On time: feed line to (6), 16 Solid carbon dioxide (3,3), 17 Ventriloquist's doll (5), 20 Oak (4).

- SOLUTION TO NO 1404: ACROSS: 4 Shaft 7 Rhetoric 8 Calm 9 Kinetics 10 Gentry 13 Hurtle 14 Runs up 15 Beadle 18 Cape Horn 19 Text 20 Governor 21 Gosse. DOWN: 1 Greave 2 Hernut 3 Jockey 4 Schedule 5 Addicted 6 Tissue 11 Ninepins 12 Roughage 14 Racing 15 Bunker 16 Antony 17 Luxury.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE: The Times Two Crosswords Book 7, £2.99. The Times Crosswords (Books 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100). The Times Crossword Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 4 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 5 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 6 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 7 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 8 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. The Times Crossword Book 9 is available to Times readers for just £1.99. 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Qualities of Steele create 40-year England record

David Rhys Jones on the extraordinary career of a dedicated senior international

WHEN Mavis Steele steps on to the turf at Rock Park, Llandrindod Wells, on Friday, June 19, to lend her weight to the England challenge for the British team title, she will create a sporting record that will probably never be surpassed.

The remarkable Steele, who will be 70 in September, first played bowls for her country in 1959, since when she has not missed a match. Next month, she will be appearing in her fortieth consecutive home international series.

By the end of this year's series, she will have clocked up 120 matches against the other home countries, in addition to countless appearances in world championships and Commonwealth Games.

Her best spell was in the 1960s, when she won seven national outdoor championships, including the singles title three times, a record that she shares with Nancie Colling, the equally venerable England secretary, and Mary Price, the present England champion.

She has continued to do well on the world stage in successive decades: runner-up in the world outdoor and indoor singles championships in 1973 and 1989 respectively and a bronze medal-winner in the Commonwealth Games in 1982. In 1973, in New Zealand, she won world championship pairs silver medal, but her greatest achievement came eight years later, in 1981, when she skipped England to the world fours title in Toronto.

If her record could accurately be described as formidable, so could she. Whether instructing her players or marshalling her troops as tournament director of the national championships, her presence is intimidating. Quite simply, you do not argue with Mavis Steele.

Her father, a keen bowler, introduced her to the game when she was 17. "I loved it and never looked back. Bowls

is such a sociable game, but it's also extremely competitive and I'm an extremely competitive person. I believe in practising, but I could never enjoy a friendly roll-up, with nothing at the end of it."

At her first club, the Watling Association at Burnt Oak, they played a "Cock of the Green" challenge, where the holder of the club title could be knocked off his (or her) perch by anyone willing to wager five shillings.

"It was a mixed club and competition was intense, but it was always taken in good part," she said. "Too often these days, the men seem worried about losing to a woman."

Although, as assistant secretary of the English Women's Bowling Association, Steele may seem to be an embodiment of the old-fashioned values that some believe may have hampered the development of the game, she is, in fact, in favour of tweaking the image.

"I do worry that money might spoil the game and I deplore gamesmanship, but I like to see younger players coming to the fore and I'm very keen on coloured clothing to make the game more meaningful for spectators."

In September, she goes to Kuala Lumpur to officiate at the Commonwealth Games. If an England team member should fall ill, she would make a more than adequate substitute. And when will she retire? "When I feel I'm not playing to the best of my ability," she said.



Steele remains an ever-present in the England picture

Hayward's chance to impress

SOUTH AFRICA will look to beat England through superior fast bowling this summer and the unknown quantity in their pace attack will be given an immediate chance to impress at New Road today (Alan Lee writes). Mormantau Hayward, a flame-haired 21-year-old from Eastern Province, will take the new ball with Allan Donald in the touring party's opening three-day match against Worcestershire.

Hayward plays partly because of a stomach strain worrying Shaun Pollock, but Hansie Cronje, the captain, is happy to introduce him. "It's good to get our only newcomer into the side," he said.

Gerhardus Liebenberg is included ahead of Adam Bacher as the opening partner for the prolific Gary Kirsten. With only two first-class matches before the first Test, this may be significant, as is the choice of Jonty Rhodes ahead of Brian McMillan.

SOUTH AFRICANS: G Kestel, G F Liebenberg, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, W J Coetzee, H H Phisoa, G Erasmus, M V Boucher, A A Donald, P R Adams, M Hayward.

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